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PRAVDA INTERNATIONAL REVIEW DISCUSSES SE ASIA, MIDEAST

LD261241 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Mar 79 p 4 LD

[Pavel Demchenko "International Review"]

[Text] The turbulent events in Asia and the Near East have been at the center of world press and public attention lately. The Chinese aggression against heroic Vietnam has aroused universal indignation. The struggle to create a new system in Iran is proceeding. Reactionary onslaughts in Afghanistan have been rebuffed. The separate deal under preparation between Egypt and Israel is evoking resolute condemnation from the world public.

Two Approaches

Our country's attitude toward the phenomena of international politics is determined primarily by the interests of insuring the peace and security of the peoples and consolidating the successes achieved by the forces of social progress and national liberation.

It is by precisely these criteria that the Soviet Union is guided in strengthening its ties with the developing countries--one of the main directions of our state's foreign policy activity. These ties are an important part of the entire structure of contemporary international relations. This fact has been demonstrated once again during K. Chamanan's visit--the first ever by a head of the Thai Government to our country--which began last week.

Receiving the Thai prime minister, L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, declared that the Soviet Union understands the efforts of the region's peoples aimed at consolidating their sovereignty and security. Reliable security in Asia must be based on principles such as the impermissibility of the use or threat of force in relations among states, strict respect for independence and sovereignty, the inviolability of borders, noninterference in internal affairs and the broad development of economic and other ties on the basis of complete equality and mutual advantage.

The Soviet Union recently reaffirmed its support for the proposal that the Indian Ocean, on whose shores dozens of states are situated, be transformed into a zone of peace. Our country also understands the idea put forward by Southeast Asian states, including Thailand, of creating a peace zone in their region of the world.

Our country's peace-loving position contrasts with the feverish activity on which the United States has now embarked to strengthen its military might in the Indian Ocean, and with the attempts to drag the Near East into a new arms race. Imperialism is blatantly interfering in the affairs of other countries and peoples in an attempt to keep them within the scope of its influence.

However, as historical experience testifies, the peoples refuse to tolerate violence and tyranny, external interference in their internal affairs and attempts to keep them from the path of civilization. The successes of the liberation struggle of the peoples of Kampuchea, Iran, Afghanistan, Ethiopia and a number of other countries cogently shows the direction in which the development of world events is moving.

"It is only the opponents of progress," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev has pointed out, "who refuse to see that these changes spring up on national soil. They are prepared to blame anyone and anything for this--the socialist countries, detente and even religious convictions. But in reality, if any external forces should be blamed, it is imperialism and its allies."

The Aggressor Has Been Repulsed, the Struggle Continues

The Chinese troops which invaded Vietnam's northern provinces more than 4 weeks ago have now been largely thrown back beyond the border. The Vietnamese are now celebrating with rallies and demonstrations their outstanding victory over an aggressor who encroached on the freedom and independence of a heroic people.

Our people's victory, NHAN DAN has written, is primarily a victory for the socialist system, a victory for the society in which each citizen is master of his land, master of the country. Our entire country and all its citizens--both old and young--rose up to struggle against the aggressors. We waged the struggle in the name of defending the motherland and in the name of justice, progress and humanism. Receiving heavy blows, the aggressors' army has been defeated.

Displaying a sense of sincere solidarity with friendly Vietnam, the Soviet people continue to wish it success. In many letters received by the PRAVDA editorial board they pay tribute to the Vietnamese people and to their heroic armed forces which blocked the way of great-power expansion and which strengthened other peoples' belief in the inevitable triumph of the cause of peace, justice and progress.

The success of Vietnam, which has proved once again that it is able to stand up for its honor and independence, is recognized throughout the world. However, the threat has still not been removed and the aggression has not been totally eliminated. As the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry declared, the Chinese Army continues to hold a number of points and areas on Vietnamese territory. The statement points out that if the Chinese Army withdraws totally from the seized territory before 26 March 1979, the Vietnamese side proposes that talks on normalizing relations begin 29 March.

The Chinese aggression against Vietnam suffered a military-political defeat. But disturbing reports are now coming in from other regions of Indochina. News agencies are continuing to report the concentration of Chinese troops along the Lao border and attempts by Beijing to move saboteurs and agents into Kampuchea and to activate the remnants of the routed supporters of the bloody Pol Pot regime; in short, to create new hotbeds of tension.

And so Beijing is still threatening international peace: That country's policy, according to Italy's LA REPUBBLICA, "is the complete opposite of the way in which a great power ought to behave in the nuclear era." Nevertheless, the West is still continuing to play the "Chinese card" and is attempting to persuade the public that nothing out of the ordinary has happened. Deliveries of modern weapons to Beijing are planned and the possibilities of concluding new military contracts with it are being discussed. All this can only be called connivance with the aggressor.

Sham Peace

And that is precisely how the capitals of the majority of Arab countries assess the Egyptian-Israeli treaty whose signing is set for 26 March in Washington. However paradoxical it may seem, a treaty which is officially called a peace treaty not only will not alleviate but, judging by appearances, will intensify the confrontation and arms race in the Near East. There are several reasons for this. The main one is that American imperialism intends henceforth to regard both Israel and Egypt as its main military bases for controlling the immense region extending from the Mediterranean and Red seas far to the East.

The texts of the treaty and the other documents which are to be signed in Washington have been published in the foreign press. [paragraph continues]

The terms contained in them envisage an end to the state of war between Egypt and Israel. Israel promises to implement by the end of the year a phased withdrawal of its troops from the Sinai Peninsula, where "limited armament" zones will be created and UN forces will be stationed. Egypt must establish full diplomatic relations with Israel, trade with it, permit the passage of Israeli ships through the Suez Canal and so forth.

Acquaintance with these documents shows that they lead the Near East problem away from genuine peace and are fraught with the danger of new explosions since the roots of the crisis are not eliminated and the Palestinian people's right to create their own state is consigned to oblivion. In exchange for returning the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt Israel is essentially consolidating its seizure of the other Arab lands and is isolating the largest Arab state from the Arab front.

M. Begin openly admitted this in presenting the treaty to the Knesset. He declared that "Israel will never return to the borders which existed before June 1967. Israel will never permit the creation of a Palestinian state on the West Bank. Jerusalem--single and united--will always remain the capital of Israel...." Thus, without beating about the bush, the Israeli premier announced that all the documents elaborated under American patronage are designed merely to legitimate the fruits of the Israeli aggression while the vague mentions of "linking" the treaty to a timetable for talks on autonomy for the Palestinian regions are an empty formality.

It is precisely these facts which explain the reaction to the separate treaty by the overwhelming majority of Arab countries and the Palestinian people. Mass demonstrations have flared up in many cities in the occupied territory. Iraq and Syria have invited the ministers of foreign affairs and the economy of the Arab states to meet immediately after the signing of the treaty and to discuss the question of imposing economic and political sanctions against Egypt which it was decided to apply at the Baghdad meeting of Arab leaders at the end of last year. It is significant that oil-producing countries such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, which have for many years now been giving Egypt large-scale financial aid, have announced their intention of joining in the pan-Arab action.

Opposition to the separate deal is strong in Egypt itself. Thus Khalid Muhyi ad-Din, leader of the National Progressive (Left) Party, has declared: "We rejected As-Sadat's 'peace initiative'; we rejected the 'peace frameworks' agreed at Camp David; and we naturally reject the treaty between Egypt and Israel." According to him, Egypt is paying a "tremendous price" for the sham peace.

By patronizing the separate Egyptian-Israeli deal Washington is disregarding the well-known UN resolutions and Soviet-American accords. Clearly the Soviet Union cannot be an indifferent observer of events affecting an area in direct proximity to our borders. Nothing can shake its determination to seek the establishment of lasting and just peace in the Near East which is in keeping with the genuine interests of the Arab and other peoples.

Sinister Designs

It is a striking fact that the Western press has recently been paying a lot of attention to the military aspect of the issue. Israel's and Egypt's agreement to conclude a treaty was conditioned by massive deliveries of American weapons to these two countries. At the first stage alone their value will total $4-4.5 billion, according to American press figures, later this figure will double or even treble.

Naturally, the lion's share of American weapons will go, as before, to Israel, although Egypt is also promised a large quantity of Phantoms, tanks, heavy guns and missiles. Thus, the so-called peace treaty is a cover for the further militarization of one of the world's most explosive areas. Washington intends to assign police functions to Israel and Egypt in the Near and Middle East, in particular those once performed by the shah's Iran.

However, this is only part of the problem, just one element of the Pentagon's strategic designs.

The American papers, which are still discussing the reasons for the U.S. President's recent unexpected trip to the Near East, are now concluding that Washington had long been ready to make an "important decision" in respect of this part of the world. Despite the fact that the United States has found "allies" in the shape of the Beijing leaders, American strategists are aware that by and large imperialism is losing position after position in Asia.

The strengthening of socialism's positions in the Indochina countries, the victory of the people's revolution in Afghanistan and the collapse of the reactionary regime in Iran--all this indicates major changes taking place on the continent. The CENTO bloc followed the example of the SEATO military bloc and collapsed when Iran and Pakistan announced their withdrawal from it and Turkey proposed that the activity of this product of the cold war be officially halted. In the Southeast Asian states united in the ASEAN organization (Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore) there is a growing desire for the strengthening of the principles of peaceful coexistence. Even such states as Saudi Arabia and some others which have always been regarded as "exemplary" U.S. allies have begun to free themselves from the American harness. They now prefer to pursue a more independent policy.

The U.S. President's national security assistant Z. Brzezinski believes that an "arc of crises" runs along the shores of the Indian Ocean. This refers primarily, of course, to the crisis of imperialist policy in this area. Frightened by this inexorable development of events, the Washington strategists are feverishly seeking a way out of the situation, under fire from the right, from rabid champions of the so-called hard line, what they regard as for "insufficiently decisive" actions.

In this situation, it was decided to bring Egypt and Israel to an agreement at all costs in order to tie them more tightly to the U.S. military machine and, at the same time, to take other steps. This refers above all to the intensification of the direct American military presence in the Indian Ocean, particularly in the oil-rich Persian Gulf. A detachment of warships was dispatched there. Washington began to discuss a plan for creating a permanent fleet in the Indian Ocean and the conclusion of a military pact with Israel. Then the order was issued to begin an airlift of weapons and American instructors to North Yemen.

Commenting on these steps by Washington, the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR wrote: "At last Carter is taking steps to save (?!) Arab oil." And it went on to put forward the sinister idea that the era which began after the ignominious American defeat in Vietnam, during which the United States "has refrained from direct participation in conflicts" abroad, has passed. This participation is now a reality.

The advocates of these solutions in the spirit of the dangerous past clearly do not want to see the world situation undergo a substantial change. The peoples' desire for freedom, independence and deliverance from imperialist domination cannot be stifled by any police measures or military adventures. The struggle for peace and social progress and for equal security, overcoming difficulties and obstacles, is strengthening in all parts of our world.

U.S. SCIENTIST HITS CALL FOR END TO SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES

LD271339 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Mar 79 p 9 LD

["Our Correspondent" report under rubric "A Specialist's Opinion": "Why They Are Against Contacts"]

[Text] Biochemist Dr (Allen Silverston) received me in his laboratory at a cancer research institute. He is engaged in researching new methods of combating leukemia, regularly reads Soviet publications on the subject, and maintains contacts with colleagues in Moscow and Leningrad, which he visited 6 years ago. At that time American-Soviet scientific cooperation was beginning to develop widely, but its future is now a source of serious concern to him. Why? A group of American scientists recently called for a freeze on scientific exchange between the United States and the USSR as retaliation against the conviction in Moscow of a few anti-Soviets.

"The declaration is fraught with the danger of the resumption of a scientific cold war," (Silverston) said. "I am against a boycott! So are many others. The severance of established ties would do immense damage to science as a whole. Today the preservation of peace is inseparable from the encouragement of international cooperation for the benefit of progress."

(Silverston) showed me a review of a poll, carried out under the aegis of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, among venerable American scientists who have been participating in the exchange program with Soviet institutes. The review's author, Prof (Loren Grekhem) of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, states: Americans who have participated in the exchange between the USSR and U.S. academies of sciences are very positive about its value. Of those questioned, 75 percent said that their stay in the Soviet Union had been very useful or extremely successful. The majority believes that the exchange program is undoubtedly of scientific benefit for the United States.

"Thus," (Silverston) continued, "any attempts to boycott the Soviet Union in the scientific sphere will damage the professional interests of American scientists. They are being drawn into sinister machinations which have nothing to do with science and which are camouflaged by arguments about the scientist's duty to 'defend' justice and democracy. But why not start to do this at home? For example, the University of Maryland's administration recently ostracized sociology Professor (Bertel Olmen), who had dared to actually mention the need to study Marxism. Instances of expulsion of skilled scientists with leftwing beliefs from colleges and universities have become more frequent. Why are they not defended by those who are currently taking up cudgels against Soviet Russia on behalf of American science?

"This can be attributed in part to the fact that the leading scientific journals and publications belong to people who are deliberately keeping quiet about human rights violations in the West," Dr (Silverston) notes. "Moreover, many laboratories and institutes owe their existence to government funds and appropriations for research of a military nature. Therefore, chauvinistic attitudes are strong. Some scientists are prepared to work for the Pentagon on the most horrific bombs, missiles and other means of total destruction. They do not condemn U.S. scientific cooperation with the South African racists. There were also scientists who praised China precisely at the time when it launched its attack on Vietnam. And the most vociferous anti-Sovietists are recruited from their ranks.

"Who is the leader of the choir?"

"The most ardent instigator of the cessation of scientific cooperation between the United States and the USSR has absolutely nothing to do with science," my interlocutor replied. "He is conservative Senator Robert Dole from Kansas. He tried to get Congress to adopt a bill abolishing state appropriations for American scientists' trips to Soviet Russia. Dole as vigorously opposed by Senator Edward Kennedy; Frank Press, the U.S. President's scientific adviser; and Richard Atkinson, the director of the scientific exchange financing program. As a result Dole's attempt was thwarted. The present attempt to undermine Soviet-American scientific exchange will probably meet a similar fate. Indeed, scientific exchange enriches equally both Soviet and U.S. space researchers, medics, physicists and biologists.... Not only Americans but also the people of your country are interested in it. And scientists should respect the will of the peoples."

COMMENTATOR SEES POOR PROSPECTS FOR U.S.-PRC TRADE

LD270145 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpt] Economist Yuriy **Yelutin** examines the outlook for American-Chinese trade as debates on this issue continue in political and business circles of the United States:

Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal and Commerce Secretary Juanita Kreps have warned in recent public statements that quick returns on trade with China should not be expected, and Congressman John Anderson, just back from a visit to China, has told the Japanese community in New York that the euphoria generated by the normalization of American-Chinese relations should not obscure many new answers and difficulties. It was not clear, he said, whether China was ready to insure the areas for investment and the volume of trade that American businessmen dreamed of and the administration talked about.

The Commerce Department has clarified this point. It says in a recent report that, though China's capacity for imports from the United States will grow in the next few years, it will remain limited. There had been a forecast that in the next 7 years the Japanese [as heard] would import $200 billion-worth of goods. The report says this has proved totally unrealistic and warns against going by this forecast since it could lead to indefinitely high expectations that in turn might prompt government leaders and businessmen to make wrong estimates and decisions. A New York TIMES correspondent, Halloran, reveals that the scepticism expressed in this report coincides with the experience of Japanese businessmen, who were unpleasantly surprised recently, he says, when the Chinese decided to go slow on a number of major contracts for industrial equipment or cancelled them altogether.

All the signs are that Beijing has started to take a more sober view of its economic potential and the outlook for the much-touted modernization program. UPI quotes the Central Intelligence Agency as saying in a special report that Prime Minister Hua Guofeng and his assistant, Deng Xiaoping, are only beginning to realize the collossal difficulties that await them. The report underscores that, as ever more problems arise, China's leaders will begin to restrict the rate and scale of their modernization program. As a result, it says, the Chinese will probably have to greatly reduce their purchases of industrial plant and technology in the West.

So the excitement over trade that flared up after Washington established diplomatic relations with Beijing is giving place to disappointment. Now the American business community is showing increased interest in mutually advantage U.S. trade with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries; for these countries have shown themselves to be reliable trading partners with a big potential.

COMMENTARY ON TAIWAN STATUS, PRESERVATION OF 'TWO CHINAS'

Product of 'Unprincipled' U.S.-PRC Deal

LD271103 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 23 Mar 79 p 3 LD

[A. Biryukov article: "'Two Chinas' American-Style"]

[Text] The two houses of the U.S. Congress recently adopted by a majority of votes a bill determining the form of U.S. relations with the regime in Taiwan in connection with the "normalization" of American-Chinese relations. The bill, which puts an end to the controversy in the United States regarding the "solution of the Taiwan problem," provides for the entire complex of former American-Taiwan relations to be preserved in practice, with the exception of diplomatic relations. Henceforth the latter will assume an "unofficial" nature and be maintained through the so-called "American Institute" in Taiwan and its Taiwanese equivalent in the United States. They will both virtually fulfill the functions of embassies, as evidenced by the fact that their representatives on each side will enjoy the advantages and privileges usually reserved for diplomatic personnel.

Thus America's strategic aim of preserving "two Chinas" has been enshrined legislatively.

Senators representing different political groups in American politics have succeeded in upholding the interests of the "old ally and friend" whom the White House was on the point of abandoning at the end of last year when it accelerated the normalization of American-Chinese relations. It is known what a fuss was raised in the United States in connection with the administration's decision to "sacrifice Taiwan" to the establishment of diplomatic relations with Beijing: There was even talk that Congress should adopt a special resolution stipulating that any military action by the PRC with regard to Taiwan would be regarded as "a direct threat" to U.S. security. In this connection Deng Xiaoping, vice premier of the PRC State Council, had repeatedly and in different companies assured his American partners of Beijing's "conciliatory attitude" toward the U.S. stand on the Taiwan question contrary to what the present Chinese Constitution states ("we will certainly liberate Taiwan") and what has been stated repeatedly by the Chinese leaders, particularly the late Zhou Enlai ("the Chinese people will not stop until Taiwan is liberated").

Not confining himself to this, Deng declared: "This problem can be settled in time, if not in 10 years then in 100 or perhaps 1,000 years." Many people in the world, as well as in China itself, evaluated this as a direct betrayal of the Chinese people's interests. But Deng went still further, stipulating that it would suit the Chinese leadership perfectly well if Taiwan had in the future "the status of Hong Kong or Macao"--those living monuments to China's colonial past.

At the last moment the Chinese leader very nearly "spoiled" the Taiwan deal by sanctioning aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. A fuss was again raised in Congress, which once again questioned the Chinese leaders' position, reckoning that China's aggression against Vietnam makes the possibility of a Chinese attack on Taiwan more real in the long term.

The U.S. administration, because of its partners' conduct over the Taiwan deal, had to buy off congressmen with promises to continue supporting the regime in Taipei and, in particular, to strengthen its military potential. "The United States will supply all the weapons and military equipment that it has already promised to deliver to Taiwan," U.S. Defense Secretary H. Brown assured the congressmen. These deliveries include modern F-5F and F-5E fighters, which Taipei had previously been denied, M-60 tanks, Maverick missiles, artillery, laser systems and other military equipment worth a total of approximately $1 billion.

In order to prevent the submission to Congress of a special resolution disadvantageous to itself, by skillful lobbying among American legislators the administration secured the adoption of a milder formula in the bill on the question of so-called "Taiwan security." It states that the United States will regard any attempt on Beijing's part to settle the Taiwan problem by other than peaceful means as "a threat to peace and stability in the West Pacific and an object of grave concern to the United States." At the same time this formula gives the administration the right to maintain that, while establishing diplomatic relations with Beijing, it "has not abandoned" Taiwan and is demonstrating its determination to preserve that island as its chief military bastion in the Far East.

Beijing has taken a very significant stand in this situation. It has not reacted in any way to Congress' decision consolidating the "two Chinas" situation and is refraining from any criticism or statement which could disrupt the "normalization" process begun by Beijing and Washington. Beijing clearly does not wish to "frighten the geese" from the capitol and inflame passions there that it does not need.

The "two Chinas" situation, which has now become a fait accompli, fully suits both the Beijing leaders, who are counting on the West's "favors" in implementing the so-called "four modernizations program" in China, and those U.S. circles which pin very definite mercenary designs and goals on the normalization of American-Chinese relations.

Describing the Chinese leadership's conduct, L. Woodcock, the first U.S. ambassador to Beijing following the normalization of relations with the PRC, pointed out that "China's more than conciliatory stand with regard to Taiwan is accounted for by its need to win America's favor, and now the Chinese even declare openly that Taiwan can preserve its noncommunist political and economic system." Incidentally, at home the Beijing leaders are even openly rehabilitating their own capitalists, returning to them not only their political rights but also funds stolen from their own people through exploitation in the form of bank accounts.

It is no accident that all these "signals" are welcomed on the other side of the ocean. The further development of not only military but also political, commercial, economic and other ties with Taiwan is already being spoken of in the United States as something that goes without saying. American specialists estimate that U.S. trade with Taiwan, which reached $7.5 billion in 1978 (seven times more than with the PRC), will increase by approximately 20-30 percent in the very near future.

The "two Chinas" are the product of an unprincipled deal with the Beijing "pragmatists," who long ago threw overboard the banner of the Chinese people's revolutionary struggle. Their small change in the compact with imperialism this time is the 17 million inhabitants of Taiwan--a Chinese island that remains in the position of a U.S. vassal territory.

Deng Xiaoping's Stand

LD271552 Moscow TASS in English 1455 GMT 27 Mar 79 LD

["Ostentatious Demarche"--TASS headline]

[Text] New York, March 27, TASS--Contrary to repeated declarations on its "determination to reunite Taiwan with the homeland," Beijing has actually admitted the "two Chinas" conception, which was advanced by Washington as a condition for "normalisation" of relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China. The testimony of this are negotiations a delegation of the U.S. Congress held in Beijing with Deng Xiaoping.

At the negotiations, the New York TIMES writes, Deng Xiaoping assiduously avoided any criticism of the bill on American-Taiwan relations, which was approved a few days ago by both chambers of the American Congress. Under this bill Taiwan remains a U.S. military-strategic springboard in the Far East and in Southeast Asia.

The stand, taken by Deng Xiaoping, fully disavows the formal demarche which China made to the United States in connection with that bill. That stand shows, stresses the New York TIMES, that China does not intend to allow discontent with the bill to affect its relations with Washington. In other words, Beijing's demarche has proved to be an ostentatious gesture.

DENG XIAOPING'S U.S. VISIT, VIETNAM INVASION SEEN AS INTERRELATED

LD271401 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 79 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[Correspondent M. Sturua report under "Pamphlet" rubric: "The Price of One Meal"]

[Text] Washington--"Nature provides no such thing as a free meal" was the witty but far from facetious conclusion reached by the well-known U.S. economist and Nobel Prize winner Milton Friedman. The meaning of this purely American precept is absolutely clear: Everything must be paid for, something for nothing is an illusion....

While the Boeing 707 jet carrying Deng Xiaoping was still somewhere between Beijing and Washington, festive commotion reigned in McLean, a suburb of the U.S. capital, in a big two-story house built in the colonial style with white cross-beams. The house's owners, Zbigniew and (Muska) Brzezinski, were preparing to meet an eminent Chinese guest--the vice chairman of the CCP Central Committee and vice premier of the PRC State Council.

Everything was in confusion in the Brzezinski household. At the last minute it turned out there was not enough to drink. Having settled the drink problem the hosts turned to the problem of seating the guests and compiling the menu. They decided not to hire waiters. First, their presence would destroy the intimacy of the soiree and, second, it could entail undesirable leak of information (in such cases even specially schooled agents of the CIA and other special services do not inspire particular trust). The role of waiters was assigned to the Brzezinski children. This was more reliable and at the same time created an atmosphere of family coziness.

It was the common opinion--of both hosts and guests--that the dinner was a glorious success. As Brzezinski himself put it, it helped to "break the ice" in U.S.-Chinese relations and set the "tone of personal ties" which subsequently imbued even the official part of Deng Xiaoping's U.S. visit.

The idea of organizing the dinner was conceived by Brzezinski during his trip to Beijing last May. Zbigniew's talks with Deng were of a secret nature. Even U.S. Vice President Mondale did not know their details. But the general spirit of the talks contained nothing mysterious, nor did the views of those taking part. Everyone knows that the political menu bringing their tastes together is the knocking together of all sorts of anti-Soviet coalitions and the organization of plots against the peoples' national liberation movement which, "for convenience's sake," is called "the breakdown of unstable sociopolitical structures." This last can be clearly traced in the example of the accusations and threats which Deng and Brzezinski shower on Cuba and Vietnam. The provocative implication of Deng's description of Vietnam as the "Asian Cuba," alternating obscure parallels with direct threats to "give a lesson" to Vietnam or "teach" it has now become absolutely clear in the light of the Chinese aggression against the Vietnamese people.

Brzezinski in turn is testifying no less openly to his hatred for socialist Cuba and Vietnam and the peoples' national liberation movement as a whole. You involuntarily recall the story of the now ritual visit to the Great Wall of China by Washington's envoys. Brzezinski persistently asked his Beijing guides to show him the place which Kissinger had once reached. On reaching the "Kissinger line" Zbig noted meaningfully: "We will go further" and then suggested to the Chinese accompanying him that they run a race to the summit of the wall. "The last person to get there will fight the Russians in Ethiopia!", the U.S. President's chief foreign policy adviser shouted and started to run up the Great Wall of China, displaying by his entire appearance the nature of an inveterate cold war sprinter.

The fun on the Great Wall of China, unheard-of in normal diplomatic practice, was dangerous fun, adventurist playing with fire. All the more so since Brzezinski did not merely run races in Beijing. He had talks with this same Deng during which, as he put it, "a parallelism of interests" on the part of the sides emerged. "I stressed that our approach to China reflects our long-term view of how we want events in this world to develop," Brzezinski said. The peoples are perfectly well informed of the "long-term views" of U.S. imperialism on historical development--views whose essence consists precisely in delaying this development and even better in turning it back now by the dollar, now by the sword, including the Chinese sword. In this respect the "parallelism" of Washington's and Beijing's interests is undoubted, the only difference being that the former counts on the Chinese sword, the latter on the U.S. bomb. While combining to kindle the fire, they nonetheless want to force each other to pull the chestnuts out of it. This is a dangerous business for all mankind.

Brzezinksi brought to the "capital of the universe" professionally produced colored charts and diagrams which he used to show Deng "the balance of world strategic forces." He even informed his Beijing interlocutors about the new strategic weapons systems which are being created in the United States. After all, he realized perfectly that the Beijing leaders cannot be caught with chaff.

Deng and Brzezinski found a common language last May. Deng's abrupt speech and Zbig's dry professional staccato resounded in unison. Later Brzezinski recalled that he had found favor with Deng by virtue of his directness and anti-Sovietism. And finally Zbig completely charmed his Beijing hosts when at the final banquet in the palace of receptions, downing a glass of Chinese mao tai vodka, he quoted Mao Zedong's misanthropic poem in which all peoples except the Chinese are compared with insects and which contains an appeal to seize the favorable moment, to "seize the day and hour" to deal with them. Brzezinski read the poem in English and Deng and the other participants in the banquet echoed him in Chinese. It was then that the invitation was extended to Deng to what was to become the renowned unofficial dinner at Brzezinski's house. Deng accepted the invitation and promised that "after normalization" his first U.S. visit would begin with a visit to Zbig's home in McLean. And that is what happened.

The Washington POST has written of "Brzezinski's influence on the future of Chinese policy and the influence of Chinese policy on Brzezinski's future." In short, you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours. This was before China's piratical attack on Vietnam. In the light of the aggression and its accompanying crimes of genocide and pillage the "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours" formula takes on a highly sinister nature. And even Washington's formal dissociation from Beijing's aggression cannot overcome this obvious fact. Connivance, incitement and complicity are also a policy. Deng's U.S. visit paved the way for the hordes of aggressors in Vietnam. One preceded the other not only in time but also in terms of the logic of events. This cause and effect connection cannot be broken by any propaganda expatiations.

Nature provides no such thing as a free meal!! It is a long, long way from the Vietnamese border town of Dong Dang to the Washington suburb of McLean. At dawn on 17 February when the Chinese aggressors' invasion began, their large-caliber artillery, covering the town, turned it literally inside out. Hundreds of people were killed in their sleep. The rabid invaders broke into Dong Dang and killed everyone on all sides, sparing neither women nor old men and children. In the city of Lao Cai the monsters killed a woman called (Chan Tkhi Myu) and her 12-year-old son. In (Taniyen) commune the occupiers threw into a ditch the old men, women and children who had not managed to escape from the commune and burned them with flame-throwers. In (Tkhanloa) commune in Lang Son Province the invaders killed the old men with rifle-butts, disembowelled the women and picked up children by their limbs and tore them in half.

The U.S. guests at the unofficial dinner might object that all these atrocities did not figure on the menu carefully compiled by the hosts. But they could easily be read between the lines. Diplomatic dinners have not only their price but their dynamics.

The month of Chinese aggression in Vietnam is logically linked to the years of U.S. aggression. The handwriting of the occupiers is almost identical, although the former use characters and the latter the Latin alphabet.

A recent statement by a spokesman of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Foreign Ministry stated that the Chinese aggressors "are committing mass plunder, pillaging, burning houses, undermining bridges, killing the peaceful population and pursuing a scorched-earth tactic." The scorched-earth tactic--a familiar formula. It invariably figured on all the U.S. aggressors' "menus." One Pentagon general even suggested burning everything living in Vietnam and then covering the country with asphalt. They almost succeeded in the former, covering long-suffering Vietnam with blood and tears. And although the U.S. aggressors did not asphalt the Vietnamese jungles, U.S. policy was most welcome to Beijing's marauding hordes. Chinese tanks burst into Lang Son, Cao Bang, Hoang Lien Son, and other Vietnamese provinces and cities along the 1,200-km Vietnamese-Chinese border--from Phong Tho in the northwest to Mong Cai in the northeast--along the U.S. diplomatic asphalt. No hypocritical disowning can deny this fact.

Washington POST reporter Martin Schram tells how Mr Brzezinski to this day is indescribably delighted when he recalls the dinner with which he regaled Deng Xiaoping. His eyes begin to twinkle feverishly, his voice becomes jerkier and higher-pitched, and he makes more frequent gesticulations with his hands in which he shuffles dozens of snapshots taken during the secret soiree in McLean.

He shuffles the snapshots like a pack of cards. Chance comes into a game. In Indochina the "China card" is put into play. That is the objective price of the dinner in McLean. But Beijing also played the "American card" in McLean. Naturally I have in mind the dinner as a symbol, not as a specific act of gluttony. Who knows whether Beijing would have risked violating the Vietnamese border without support from some of its influential Washington tutors? Everyone knows well how this adventure ended. And so the price of the dinner in McLean was over 60,000 Chinese soldiers and thousands of Vietnamese lives.

There is something to think about here, after all, Beijing's Vietnamese adventure is only the beginning, not the end of the Chinese puzzle--a puzzle both figuratively and literally. Its approximate price can be judged if only by the following admission of the late Mao Zedong: "Nuclear war is not such a bad thing: Even if half of mankind is destroyed, the other half will remain."

Yes, there is something here to think about for the lovers of other diplomatic receptions. Who knows, their wives and children might be in that half which Beijing has "magnanimously" agreed to discount.

IZVESTIYA CITES AFGHAN CONDEMNATION OF FOREIGN 'INTRIGUES'

LD280845 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 79 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[TASS report: "Reaction's Intrigues Nipped in Bud"]

[Text] Kabul--The tension of the situation in Afghanistan has abated somewhat, although operations are still being mounted by counterrevolutionary elements in certain regions, particularly in the western and eastern regions of the country. The New Year demonstrations in the religious centers have been peaceful. The situation is calm in Kabul and is returning to normal in Herat. The news of the rout of the counterrevolutionary and reactionary elements which had penetrated Afghan territory and attempted to cause disorders in the Herat region has been greeted with profound satisfaction by the Afghan public.

Mass meetings whose participants--workers, peasants, tradesmen and representatives of all strata of the population--are unanimously approving the authorities' measures to suppress the intrigues of counterrevolutionary forces incited and directed from outside. These meetings are being held in Kabul, Jalalabad, Ghazni, Qandahar and all cities and regions of the country.

It is no secret to anyone today just what circles constitute the prop of counterrevolution: There is the feudal aristocracy, which the revolution has deprived of wealth and privilege, and the reactionary clergy which alines itself with the feudal lords. A.K. Nurzai, member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, member of the Revolutionary Council and Democratic Republic of Afghanistan deputy minister of information and culture, declared this in conversation with TASS correspondents. There elements are relying on external support in their attempt to restore the government of landowners and feudal lords in the country and to restore a setup which condemns the people to tyrannical rule and poverty. Gangs of armed counterrevolutionaries are being sent into our country from neighboring Pakistan--obviously with the knowledge of the Pakistani authorities. It is well known that a small group of reactionary emigrees thrown out of Afghanistan by the revolution and including (Gulbeddin), (Rakhbani) and (Mottemadi) has settled in Pakistan and is active there. These are feudal lords and reactionaries who for many years shamelessly plundered the Afghan people and are guilty of murders, acts of violence and other crimes against Afghanistan's working people. Is it surprising that they fled the country and are now attempting to head counterrevolution?

The counterrevolutionaries and reactionaries in question have no support whatever in Afghanistan itself, and if they are able to engage in counterrevolutionary activity, it is only because they rely on the support of certain circles abroad, A.K. Nurzai declared. It is no secret that imperialist forces and, in particular, the U.S. CIA are weaving a conspiracy against the Afghan revolution. Attention is also attracted by the fact that Western propaganda and particularly the British BBC has recently intensified its dissemination of obviously inflammatory fairytales about "persecutions of Muslim clergy" supposedly taking place in Afghanistan.

The actions of the Beijing rulers, who are also attempting to undermine the Afghan revolution, go hand in hand with these reactionary Western circles' intrigues. Maoist groupings which have settled, in particular, in Badakhshan Province are seeking to kindle nationalist and separatist sentiments, spreading lies about the revolution's aims and tasks and doing everything possible to discredit the Afghan people's achievements since the April revolution. Chinese instructors participate in training the terrorists, bandits and provocateurs who are sent in from outside.

But although counterrevolutionary forces of various stripes and hues, relying on the support of imperialist forces, are attempting to attack the Afghan revolution, the Afghan people are firmly guarding the revolutionary gains. The Ministry of Information and Culture, the editorial offices of Kabul newspapers and the radio stations are now receiving reports from all over the country indicating that millions of working people representing every stratum of the country's population resolutely support the revolutionary government and reaffirm over and over again their loyalty to the April revolution's ideals.

The People's Youth Organization of Afghanistan which unites more than 250,000 young Afghan men and women, resolutely and wholly supports the domestic and foreign policy pursued by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the revolutionary government and resolutely condemns the intrigues by counterrevolutionary and reactionary forces aimed at preventing the successful building of a new life, (Abdurrakhman Amin), deputy chairman of that organization's presidium, declared. It is well known who is backing and inciting the counterrevolutionaries and encouraging their criminal activity: certain circles in Pakistan and the Beijing reactionaries who team up with imperialism. It was precisely they who aided the bandits and cutthroats who attempted to stage disorders in Herat, he said.

The Afghan Muslims angrily condemn the psuedo-Muslims who are waging slanderous propaganda against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, Moulava (Said Abdul Manan), member of the Council of Ulemas--the country's main association of religious leaders--declared. The Afghan people actively support the revolutionary transformations in the country. Afghanistan's Muslims resolutely and wholly reject the externally-organized provocative attempts to kindle religious and national discord in our country. We resolutely protest slanderous statements to the effect that the revolutionary authorities are "infringing" believers' rights. Nothing of the sort has happened or is happening in Afghanistan: The revolutionary government has deep respect for religion and the values of Islam, and Muslim working people and the entire Afghan people actively support the revolutionary government's measures aimed at suppressing reaction's criminal activity.

DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN, USSR AID DISCUSSED

LD271441 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 March 1979 Morning Edition carries on page five a 1,500-word Kabul-Moscow report, entitled "A Revolution on the March," by IZVESTIYA special correspondent B. Vinogradov.

The report focuses on the agricultural situation in the republic in the light of the agrarian reform. Vinogradov describes how estates are being split up and "indigent" farmers are getting plots of land for the first time. "Clearly, many difficulties lie ahead," Vinogradov writes. "The restructuring of an age-old setup means restructuring the consciousness. It takes time. But this process is taking place rapidly in Afghanistan, at an accelerating pace. The revolution has put the country on the highway of social progress." The article goes on: "It is less than a year since the April revolution yet a great deal has already been done. Hundreds of thousands of hectares of land had been distributed by the beginning of last month.... Ultimately the agarian reform will create the foundation for building a new society free from exploitation, as Afghan Prime Minister Nur Muhammad Taraki has noted."

Vinogradov goes on to describe financial assistance given to the farmers. "The government's policy vis-a-vis the agricultural workers is greeted enthusiastically by the people. Its antifeudal direction is clear, and therefore it meets with widespread support among the peasantry. [paragraph continues]

"But there are still many difficulties on the path of establishing a new life in the Afghan countryside. The more quickly the wind is taken out of the zamindars' sails the more fiercely they resist the revolution. Aware that it is doomed, the landowning elite, supported by outside reactionary forces, weaves plots against the people's power."

To combat this, the article goes on, the Afghan People's Democratic Party is taking steps to enhance the masses' political activeness and to educate them. The article concludes by saying that the word "Soviet" meets with a warm reception in the republic. "Our country," Vinogradov writes, "like the other socialist community countries, is giving the Afghan people effective and selfless assistance in building a new life. In recent months several Soviet-Afghan agreements have been signed on the further development of mutually advantageous cooperation. It is built, as Afghan Foreign Minister H. Amin noted, on a traditional friendly basis, without any conditions."

AFGHANISTAN PROTESTS ATTACK ON CONSULATE IN IRAN

LD262316 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1100 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY has published a statement issued by the official spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] regarding the attack made by a group of Iranian religious fanatics on the DRA consulate in Mashhad. The attackers tore down the DRA flag and burned it. The statement notes that such an act had occurred previously at the DRA Embassy in Tehran. The DRA Foreign Ministry has summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires in Kabul and lodged a protest over this regretable act against the Afghan consulate in Mahshad.

KOSYGIN SPEAKS AT RED FORT IN DELHI

LD150919 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Mar 79 p 4 LD

[TASS report on speech by Premier Aleksey Kosygin at 10 March meeting at Red Fort in Delhi during visit to India]

[Text] Today's meeting, A.N. Kosygin said, reflects the deep friendship which links the Soviet and Indian peoples. Therefore, it is with special feeling that I convey to all those taking part in this civic reception and through you to India's entire millions-strong people warm friendly greetings and wishes for peace, prosperity and progress from the Soviet people and Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, personally.

The durability of Soviet-Indian friendship lies in the fact that it accords with the fundamental interests of the peoples of India and the Soviet Union, corresponds with their aspirations and desires and has therefore become their common cause in the real sense of the word. The durability of Soviet-Indian friendship also lies in the fact that the policy of peaceful coexistence pursued by our countries is the only correct policy for our time, a policy leading to peace rather than war, to friendly, constructive cooperation rather than hostility and mutual mistrust.

The policy of peaceful coexistence arose as a result of the victory of the October Revolution in Russia, and its creator was the great Lenin. It is precisely this policy which lies at the basis of the foreign policy course which is being implemented by the CPSU headed by that worthy continuer of Lenin's cause--Leonid Ilich Brezhnev.

In his time that outstanding Indian politician Jawaharlal Nehru did a great deal to insure that the principles of peaceful cooperation were accepted by many developing countries and became the fundamental basis of the nonalinement policy they pursue.

Since the last visit paid to the Soviet Union by Indian Prime Minister Mr Morarji Desai the world has witnessed many serious events. Not all these events please the peoples or serve the cause of peace. The broadening and intensification of the relaxation of tension achieved in recent years thanks to the peace-loving forces' struggle are arousing fierce resistance from those who have linked their destiny with the policy of war and the arms race. World imperialism rushes to the rescue of reactionary regimes when the movement of the people's masses begins to shake their foundations and tries to knock together new military-political alliances and "axes," oblivious of the lessons of history.

Now everyone can see the proof of the rashness and danger of this policy. Peace-loving Socialist Vietnam, which has not yet had time to heal the wounds left by the U.S. intervention, has fallen victim to overt aggression from China. The people of Vietnam, their government and the Vietnam Communist Party did not want this war. There can be no doubt that the Chinese people did not want it either. The Chinese leaders bear the full burden of responsibility for the attack on the peaceful socialist country. The military adventure they unleashed is the practical implementation of their chauvinist militarist course. Only people who have become hopelessly involved in their own affairs and ceased to consider the interests of their own people could have embarked on such a stay.

The Chinese leaders possibly imagine that they will get away with the adventure they have undertaken thanks to support from certain militarist and imperialist circles and a small handful of unprincipled politicians. But they are gravely wrong in their calculations. The aggression against Vietnam is giving rise to deep indignation throughout the world and all those who are encouraging the aggressor out loud or stealthily will have to take this into account.

The Vietnamese people are not alone in their just struggle; the Soviet Union helped Vietnam during the American intervention and today the Soviet people and the CPSU are fulfilling totally their international duty with respect to the fraternal socialist country which is the victim of aggression. The war against the Vietnamese people is an international crime and those who have committed it will not go unpunished.

Peace in Vietnam must be restored. The complete and unconditional withdrawal of the aggressor's troops beyond the historically established Vietnamese-Chinese border is essential for this.

The struggle for disarmament, the USSR Council of Ministers chairman continued, has always been one of the main items of the Soviet Union's foreign policy. But we have never waged it from idealistic pacifist positions. As long as forces of militarism and expansion still exist in the world, the peace-loving peoples have to be concerned for the consolidation of their defense. India also knows this, because in the past 25 years ominous clouds have frequently gathered on its borders, and the Soviet Union is understanding toward India's efforts to insure its defense.

An effective policy of peace is always an active policy. The liquidation of conflicts, the consolidation of detente, the attainment of real steps in the disarmament sphere--all this is linked with practical steps and the pooling of efforts by the peace-loving countries. The experience of India's participation in international affairs fully confirms this. It is for precisely this reason that the policy of nonalinement characteristic of India has been called a policy of "positive neutrality." [paragraph continues]

The effectiveness of this policy is borne out by the fact that it has been welcomed by many nonalined countries of the world and has served to enlist them actively in international life as aware and full participants. For this reason this policy has not been to the taste of some states which have for too long looked on other countries as obedient executors of their own will. What would suit them best would be political inertia on the part of the young states of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

But time has changed the world. The era when a small group of "world powers" could dictate their will to the overwhelming majority of peoples is receding into the past. In all parts of the world there is a rapid upsurge in the peoples' political consciousness. Their activeness in the struggle for peace is growing and their solidarity is strengthening. Now that the actions of the enemies of peace are again facing people with a choice: Strengthening and defending detente or giving the forces of militarism and aggression a chance to feel the situation--progressively fewer countries are standing aloof from the active struggle for detente. The voice of the peoples demanding the barring of the way to the forces of war is being heard increasingly loudly. Today it is particularly opportune to recall the words of India's great son--the outstanding humanist Mahatma Gandhi--who said: "The whole world is like a human body and pain in one part reverberates throughout the whole body."

Allow me wholeheartedly, on behalf of all peoples of the USSR and on behalf of Leonid Ilich Brezhnev once again to wish the entire Indian people happiness and prosperity and new successes in the struggle for peace, detente and international cooperation.

The civic reception in the Red Fort demonstratedonce again the durability and indestructibility of the friendship uniting the peoples of India and the Soviet Union.

INDIAN PRIME MINISTER REAFFIRMS GOOD RELATIONS WITH USSR

LD271302 Moscow TASS in English 1242 GMT 27 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Delhi, March 27, TASS--The Indian-Soviet talks that were held recently will give a new impetus to cooperation between the two countries, will bring to a higher level mutual understanding between India and the USSR, India's Prime Minister Morarji Desai said in Parlaiment's upper chamber.

He stressed that there exists in Indian-Soviet relations a good tradition in accordance with which leaders of the two countries meet to exchange opinions on a number of bilateral problems. Such meetings help establish greater closeness between India and the USSR. During the talks with Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Aleksey Kosygin, the Indian prime minister said, we also discussed a broad range of international questions. Viewing with concern the alarming state of affairs in Southeast Asia and West Asia, we agreed that countries must be given an opportunity to develop independently along their chosen road without outside interference.

We also arrived at the common conclusion that relations among countries must be based on the principles of territorial integrity, sovereignty and non-use of force. All countries of the region must cooperate on the basis of equality and respect for sovereignty to the benefit of peace and stability.

The prime minister pointed out that India and the Soviet Union have the same opinions on many problems. The Indian-Soviet relations, he said, offer a vivid example of how two countries with different social and economic structures can cooperate successfully in mutual interests and on the basis of Pancha Shila principles (Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence). Cooperation between India and the Soviet Union gained new strength and now serves as an important factor of peace and stability in Asia and all over the world, Morarji Desai said in conclusion.

BREZHNEV, SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT EXCHANGE TELEGRAMS

LD261706 Moscow TASS in English 1631 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 26, TASS--Leonid Brezhnev sent a telegramme to President Junius Richard Jayewardene, president of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, conveying sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Sri Lankan people on the occasion of the country's national holiday--the 31st anniversary of independence.

In a reply telegramme the Sri Lankan president expressed sincere thanks for the congratulations and good wishes.

Both telegrammes express certainty that relations of friendship and reciprocally advantageous cooperation between the two countries will be further developed to the good of the Soviet and the Sri Lankan peoples, in the interests of strengthening world peace and security.

MORE ON OFFICIAL VISIT OF THAI PRIME MINISTER

Comment on Visit

LD272116 Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1400 GMT 27 Mar 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In his statement at a news conference in Moscow the Thai prime minister, Kriansak Chamanan, gave a high appraisal to his meetings with General Secretary and national President Leonid Brezhnev and other Soviet leaders. The meetings, he said, were held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, sincerity and frankness. Special attention was given to the present-day situation in Southeast Asia. As discussions revealed, the sides have much in common in their approach to that issue. Describing the Soviet Union's position, Leonid Brezhnev said that it would be in the vital interests of the Asians as well as in the interests of world peace to work to deepen the relaxation process on the continent and develop a genuine good-neighborly cooperation among Asian nations there. Loyal to its policy of peace, the Soviet Union, Leonid Brezhnev said, will continue to make a constructive contribution to this important effort. The Soviet Union and other socialist countries have done much to make the principles of peaceful coexistence between states with different political and social systems, including Southeast Asian countries, a reality of international life.

Similar principles lie at the core of the idea to turn Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality, free from outside interference. This idea has been put forward by Thailand and other member states of the Association (?of) Southeast Asian Nations. The Soviet Union, as Soviet leaders point out, (?treat) the idea with understanding. It welcomes any steps aimed at promoting good-neighborly relations in the region. The Soviet public reacts with satisfaction to the favorable development of relations between Thailand and Vietnam. Relations between Thailand and Laos have also normalized. In January, the Thai prime minister paid an official visit to Laos which was a big success. The sides pledged their adherence to the principles of peaceful coexistence and their desire to turn the Mekong River into a zone of peace and good-neighborliness.

All these positive changes indicate that the Southeast Asian countries see no other development of the situation in the region than that of along relaxation lines. It's true that certain forces try to slow down the process. The Chinese leaders who authorised the attack on Vietnam and are threatening Laos at the moment have brought about the worsening of the climate in the region. Their actions, however, cause a sharp negative reaction. The Thai public believes that the conflict posing a serious threat to the region as a whole should be settled by peaceful means.

Experience proves that the tasks of social, economic and cultural advance that the Southeast Asian countries, including Thailand, set for themselves, can be resolved successfully only in the conditions of peace and stability. This explains why Soviet-Thai cooperation, that received a fresh impetus following the current visit of the Thai prime minister to this country, involves not only the sphere of bilateral relations but the international sphere as well.

Departure for Bangkok

LD271328 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 27 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Thai Prime Minister Kriangsak Chamanan continued his visit in Leningrad today. The guest visited the Piskarevo memorial cemetery and laid a wreath at the monument to the homeland. He honored the memory of the heroic defenders of the city with a minute of silence. The prime minister viewed the Hermitage exhibitions and visited architectural and historical monuments at Pavlovsk and Pushkin. Later in the day the Thai prime minister left Leningrad for Bangkok.

MORE ON PRC'S AGGRESSION AGAINST SRV

Aggression Condemned

LD261758 Moscow TASS in English 1710 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Hanoi, March 26, TASS--Beijing's ruling circles have still not withdrawn fully their troops from Vietnamese territory and continue to occupy several points and districts in the northern provinces of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. At the same time China is concentrating large contingents of troops on the Vietnamese-Chinese border. The Chinese are also engaged in military-engineering construction there.

As reported by the Vietnamese news service (VNA), the Chinese militarists are continuing their atrocities in the occupied districts, endeavouring to undermine as much as possible the national economy of Vietnam. The aggressors are shelling towns and villages. The town of Mong Cai has been subjected to a mortar fire assault.

Hanoi, March 26, TASS--A mass meeting of representatives of the young people, who performed feats of valour during the 30-day war against the Chinese aggressors, has been held here. It was attended by Nguyen Huu Tho, vice president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and other leaders of the republic.

Speaking at the meeting, Colonel General Chu Huy Man, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, head of the Chief Political Department of the Vietnamese People's Army, said that the Chinese Government, which had unleashed an aggressive war against Vietnam, suffered a grave defeat. However, he said, the intentions of the Chinese authorities to weaken and annex Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea, to establish ultimately its hegemony over Southeast Asia and all the world have not changed. Despite their repeated setbacks and defeats, the Chinese hegemonists continue to display stubbornness and rashness, are resorting to subtle manoeuvres. Chu Huy Man urged the young people to defeat the enemy, to fight for the homeland's national independence and freedom.

Challenge Banners were presented at the meeting to youth organizations of the Vietnamese People's Army, the armed security forces of Hoang Lien Son, Cao Bang, Lang Son, Quang Ninh Hatuen and Lai Tiao provinces.

Hanoi, March 26, TASS--The Beijing authorities are again resorting to deceit. Speaking glibly of their "desire for negotiations", they continue at the same time to occupy several districts of Vietnamese territory. Beijing is thereby endeavouring to compel us to agree to occupation, to recognize the borderline which it has unilaterally fixed by armed force, it is pointed out today by the army newspaper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN.

It is precisely the Chinese occupation of a part of Vietnamese territory, the newspaper stresses, that is the main and only obstacle to the opening of Vietnamese-Chinese negotiations. The Chinese troops are being used by Beijing to fan up the conflict and for new aggressive actions, as well as for preparing an annexation of Vietnam.

These troops, still remaining in Vietnamese territory, must be pulled out immediately, completely and unconditionally. The negotiations cannot be started as long as China refuses to do this. We shall avail ourselves without fail of our right to self-defence and to defend the sacred territory of our homeland, QUAN DOI NHAN DAN stresses.

Vietnamese Tenacity, PRC Atrocities

LD271321 Moscow NEDLYA in Russian No 12 Signed to Press 22 March 79 p 5 LD

[IZVESTIYA correspondent M. Ilinskiy Hanoi dispatch: "The Maoists' Bloody Footprints"]

[Text] Hanoi--During February-March China's aggression against Socialist Vietnam filled the minds and hearts of the world's honest people with alarm. Whirlwinds of fire and steel raged over Vietnam, people were being killed again and exploding shells shook the earth. For 30 days and nights heroic and courageous Vietnam fought off Maoist China's aggression in the border zone. The 600,000-strong interventionist army had been ordered to overrun the Vietnamese border guards with a quick thrust, crush the defenders of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam's borders and capture a number of provinces within 2-3 days. Then it was planned that Beijing diplomacy, which would dictate its crushing expansionist terms to heroic Vietnam, would come into play. 'We will punish this refractory Vietnam," Beijing's braggarts boasted.

For a month guns, not diplomats did the talking. One after another Chinese artillery positions were destroyed, and enemy tanks and armored carriers blazed on Vietnamese roads. Before the frenzied onslaught of a rapid "sea of Chinese" the defense line would sometimes give just a little, like a spring, for no more than 30-34 km only to recoil and repulse the aggressor with renewed force.

History stands as witness and accuser. The Maoist interventionists were following in their feudal ancestors' bloody footsteps.

The Chinese have invaded dozens of times in the last millenium, firing on Vietnam's "gates" in order to subjugate this proud and unyielding country, but on every occasion they have been thrown back, suffering ignominious defeat. Enemies' greed knows no bounds, a Vietnamese proverb runs. French colonialists sought to enslave Vietnam forever and seize its enormous riches. But they left the Vietnamese land ignominiously. Japanese warmongers were thrown out of the country. The Pentagon war machine skidded and ground to a halt in its vain attempt to crush Vietnam's courage.

Now a new interventionist, Maoist China, has entered the arena of aggression, swelling the shameful ranks of invaders who have sought to subjugate Vietnam. The Beijing leadership has disregarded the lessons of history in its expansionist urge to annex and bring the whole of Indochina and Southeast Asia under its rule. Supported by tanks and artillery, more than 20 Chinese divisions broke down Vietnam's doors. The historically established border, recognized by China and enshrined in conventions as long ago as 1887 and 1895, was violated. Some 310 stone blocks, most of which survive to this day, marked the border. In 1957-58 it was reaffirmed by China. But before the ink on the treaty was dry the Chinese began to systematically violate Vietnam's northern state border at more than 50 points.

I am sending this report from Hanoi on 20 March. Today the whole of Vietnam is celebrating a victory holiday. Columns of people with banners stream through the Vietnamese capital like a river, flowing into the square in front of the city's central theater. It is just here that the Vietnamese people celebrated victory in the struggle against the colonizers. This is where thousands rallied in 1975 after the total liberation of the south of Vietnam. And this is where the victors are also gathering today. The scene is an explosion of placards and posters stigmatizing the Chinese aggressors. Scarlet banners are held aloft with inscriptions telling how the sons and daughters of Vietnam will worthily fulfill their sacred mission, will defend their motherland and will build a socialist society. [paragraph continues]

Every Vietnamese heard on the radio or read in the newspapers the text of the Defense Ministry communique summarizing the results of 30 days of fighting--from 17 February through 18 March 1979. Some 62,500 Chinese invaders were put out of action, 3 enemy regiments and 18 battalions were totally destroyed. Some 550 military vehicles were smashed, including 280 tanks and armored transporters, and 115 enemy guns and mortars were destroyed.

Suffering heavy defeat on the fronts in all six Vietnamese border provinces, and coming up against the might of the international movement of solidarity and support for Vietnam's righteous cause and the resolute condemnation of the Chinese aggression by the world's peoples, Beijing announced the so-called withdrawal of its troops as early as 5 March 1979. But this was a propaganda lie. Fierce fighting continued. The aggressors tried to win time and regroup their threadbare forces in order to attempt to penetrate once more deep inside Vietnamese territory. But the interventionists' cunning did not help. The strength of the Vietnamese people's combat rebuff increased. The Soviet Union, the other socialist countries and all progressive forces of the world rendered the Socialist Republic of Vietnam increasing help and support. Finally, on 18 March, the aggressor's main forces were flung back across Vietnam's historical borders.

A new stage is coming now, which will show how far the lesson that Vietnam has now taught Maoist China has brought the Beijing leadership to its senses. A period of negotiation lies ahead. The peoples of the world know that the Vietnamese are not only superb fighters on the battlefields but also clever, skilled diplomats. The former colonizers are well informed about this from their experience at the 1954 Geneva conference. Washington also remembers this fact from its long diplomatic battle on Avenue Kleber in Paris. On this difficult front, too, victory was invariably on the side of Vietnam's right, just cause.

Informed circles in Indochina make the supposition that China will resort to various ruses and subterfuges, falsify the facts and launch into the slanderous fabrications characteristic of the Maoists. But this will merely expose even further the reactionary essence of Maoism--the enemy of peace, progress, the peoples' freedom and independence, democracy and socialism.

Now the entire world public has seen the true guise of the Beijing aggressors. Neither the Vietnamese people nor progressive people on all continents will ever forget the monstrous crimes committed by the Maoists on Vietnam's long-suffering soil. Some 30 days of war have passed, and many hundreds of pages have already been written in the grim annals of the Chinese aggressors' crimes. The brick plant in (Kuangkim)--here all the male workers were killed. The women were driven off to China. The apatite miners of Cam Duong were tortured by the Chinese soldiery. A young teacher from the commune of Thanh Loa in Lang Son Province was raped and then shot. Hundreds of children from the settlement of Bat Xat in Hoang Lien Son Province were brutally murdered by Chinese soldiers. Miraculously surviving witnesses to this crime maintain that even Chinese servicewomen participated in the killings. The crimes were accompanied by unprecedented pillaging. Clothes were removed from the dead and carted off to China. Women's hair was cut off. Even children's smocks and toys scattered around the burned kindergartens were carted off to China. This order was disseminated among the aggressors: "Every soldier leaving for China will bring with him no less than 20kg of property seized in Vietnam." The Chinese stole everything that came to hand--foodstores and door locks, window frames and entire house doors, old earthenware jugs and household utensils. What they could not take away they burned, blew up or cut up with knives. Raiders caused great damage to economic targets and settlements in the temporarily captured regions. I have seen the ruins of Lang Son and the debris in dozens of other settlements and towns. Virtually not a single house remains standing in Lao Cai and Cao Bang, and the apatite mines of Cam Duong have been destroyed. Sectors of Vietnamese industry such as the chemical, coal, power, food and sugar sectors have suffered considerable damage as a result of the aggression. [paragraph continues]

Tens of thousands of hectares of land remain unsown this springtime. Transport facilities in the northern provinces of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, highways and railroads have suffered. Stations and bridges have been destroyed.

Not only do hands grip weapons more firmly but the gaze grows harder when a soldier--defender of the Vietnamese land--sees these crimes of the aggressors. These barbarous consequences of the Chinese attack make the hearts of those who are currently in Vietnam shudder. The voice of all progressive mankind censuring the Beijing interventionists is growing stronger. Mankind will not forget or forgive the Maoist aggressors' crimes.

Many Vietnamese say that their country is now, as it were, between war and peace. The aggressors have been dislodged from Vietnamese soil. The talks proposed by Vietnam, which holds the diplomatic initiative, have not yet begun. But whatever China's stand might be, the people of Vietnam declare, the Maoist expansionists will never break the heroic people's courage. The Soviet Union and all progressive mankind are on their side.

PRC 'Slanderous Fabrications'

LD272022 Moscow TASS in English 1929 GMT 27 Mar 79 LD

["Note of SRV Foreign Ministry"--TASS headline]

[Text] Hanoi, March 27, TASS--The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has issued a note addressed to the PRC Foreign Ministry. The note refutes the slanderous fabrications by the Chinese side aimed at trying to justify China's criminal aggression against Socialist Vietnam.

Having suffered a heavy military defeat and met with powerful condemnation from world public, the Chinese rulers were forced to start withdrawing their troops from Vietnam, says the note of the SRV Foreign Ministry. But until now the Chinese troops continue occupying a number of points in the Vietnamese territory.

China's ruling circles, the note goes on to say, are spreading all sorts of fabrications as a cover for their continuing interference in Kampuchea's internal affairs and subversive activity in Laos. All this further exposes the real face of the expansionists and great power hegemonists.

IZVESTIYA CITES LAO PARTY APPEAL TO OPPOSE PRC

LD271053 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 79 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[TASS report: "Rebuff to Beijing's Intrigues"]

[Text] Vientiane, 23 March--The Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee has issued an address to all party members, army servicemen and the Lao people on the 24th anniversary of the LPRP's formation.

The multinational Lao people are marking the anniversary of their party's creation, the address says, in an atmosphere of new successes secured by the LPRP and the country's working people on all fronts of peaceful socialist building. The successes achieved by the Lao people in 30 years of struggle for national independence and in the years of peaceful socialist building are largely the result of the tremendous support and help from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries and the combat solidarity of the peoples of Laos, Vietnam and Kampuchea.

The Lao people, together with all the world's progressive forces, are sincerely glad at the great victory secured by the heroic people of Vietnam over the Chinese aggressors. These victories by the three fraternal peoples are a splendid example of revolutionary heroism, which combines genuine patriotism and proletarian internationalism.

The address resolutely condemns the actions of Beijing, which has concentrated a large number of troops near the Lao borders and has begun a series of military maneuvers there. The LPRP Central Committee protests the infiltration of Chinese spies onto Lao territory to carry out subversive propaganda, split the unity of the multinational Lao people and destroy security and public order in the country.

The LPRP Central Committee calls on the entire Lao people to rally more closely around the LPRP and the Lao Government, to redouble their vigilance and to be prepared on all fronts to defend the socialist motherland's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The LPRP Central Committee expressed sincere feelings of gratitude toward the communist parties, governments and peoples of the Soviet Union and Vietnam and other fraternal socialist countries for the tremendous help and constant, effective support for the cause of defending and building Laos. The LPRP Central Committee calls on the socialist community countries, communist and workers parties, international organizations and peace-loving forces throughout the world to support the just cause of the Lao people and to demand that the Chinese ruling circles put an end to all their actions threatening the independence, sovereignty and integrity of Laos.

Subversive acts by the Chinese authorities against Laos have been planned and implemented over a long period of time. China is now stepping up its subversive activity and is trying to increase the number of its agents in Laos and oppose the Lao Government's policy line, the newspaper SIENG PAXAXONH writes. China, the newspaper notes, is trying to transform Laos into a kind of instrument, as it did with the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique, and to make Laos renounce its policy of independence and sovereignty. However, the Lao people have never been subordinate to anyone and are fully determined to prevent anyone from violating their independence.

PHILIPPINES FOREIGN MINISTER BACKS USSR STAND ON ARMS RACE

LD221242 Moscow TASS in English 1155 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Manila, March 22, TASS--Foreign Minister of the Philippines Carlos Romulo has declared in support of the Soviet Union's proposals aimed at relaxation of international tension, at restraining the arms race and at universal disarmament, which were advanced by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev in his speech at the election meeting of the Bauman election district of Moscow.

In his television appearance, the Philippines' minister singled out Leonid Brezhnev's proposal that the states, signatories to the Helsinki declaration, should reach agreement on not being the first to use both nuclear and conventional armaments. "All who come out for universal disarmament in order to strengthen peace, C. Romulo said, have been inspired by the recent statement of President Leonid Brezhnev to the effect that the SALT-II negotiations are close to conclusion".

The foreign minister of the Philippines also noted the Soviet Union's readiness, expressed by Leonid Brezhnev, to start, after the signing of the SALT-II agreement, negotiations with the United States on a further limitation of armaments. "These proposals deserve to be most closely studied by all those who strive for the strengthening of durable prospects of international peace and stability," C. Romulo stressed.

MOSCOW SATISFIED WITH RESULTS OF EANES E. EUROPEAN TOUR

LD271420 Moscow in Portuguese to Portugal 2100 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The president of Portugal, Gen Ramalho Eanes, has ended his official visit to European socialist countries. As is known, the trip undertaken by the Portuguese head of state--which can already be regarded as fruitful and of [word indistinct]--was to three countries: the People's Republic of Bulgaria; the Socialist Republic of Romania; and the People's Republic of Hungary. One must agree with the president of Portugal when, on starting this trip, he called it the continuation of the policies based on the clauses of the CSCE Final Act in Helsinki. They aim at strengthening detente and security in Europe and all over the world.

In Europe as in the rest of the world, the constructive and peaceful foreign policy of the socialist countries is well known, as well as their desire to consolidate international detente and develop mutually advantageous cooperation with equal rights between all countries of the continent.

After learning of the matters discussed between President Ramalho Eanes and the leaders of Bulgaria, Romania, and Hungary, and after analyzing the documents they signed, it becomes clear that the socialist countries are faithful to this policy.

The talks held and the exchange of opinions demonstrated that the Portuguese leader was understood every time he mentioned the importance of the struggle for peace and security of the peoples, for the consolidation of the principles of peaceful coexistence, good-neighborliness, economic, [word indistinct] and cultural cooperation [word indistinct] advantage.

In the Soviet Union, which carries out constant efforts with a view to achieving multilateral peaceful cooperation between European peoples, the results of the visit of Ramalho Eanes to Bulgaria, Romania, and Hungary are received with satisfaction and obviously with the hope that the agreements signed will be carried out, as this would correspond to the interests of the people of Porgugal and the socialist countries.

BRIEFS

HUNGARY'S ANNIVERSARY IN KIEV--On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the proclamation of the Hungarian Republic of the Councils and the forthcoming 34th anniversary of the country's liberation from the fascist oppression, a friendly meeting with journalists was held in the Hungarian Consulate General in Kiev on 26 March. Gyorgy Maklari, Hungarian consul general in Kiev, spoke about the successes and achievements scored by the Hungarian working people in constructing a developed socialist society. He also answered the journalists' questions. [Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 26 Mar 79 AU]

BULGARIAN MEDALS--On 22 March Zhulev, Bulgarian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Soviet Union, presented in the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee headquarters jubilee medals commemorating the centenary of Bulgaria's liberation from the Ottoman yoke, 1878-1978, to members and candidate members of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo. [Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 22 Mar 79 AU]

EUROPE A DETENTE WORKSHOP, NUCLEUS OF WORLD STABILITY

LD271551 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 Mar 79 p 3 LD

[Vl. Kuznetsov article under "Publicist's Notes" rubric: "Good-Neighborliness in Europe"]

[Excerpt] Europe has long been called the "workshop of peace." We know now that it has also become the workshop of detente for the whole world. Here there is ceaseless painstaking and laborious work or--which is the same thing--a strenuous struggle whose entire significance will be revealed in full, perhaps, not to our contemporaries but to future generations. It is a question of shaping peaceful and constructive interstate relations which must be firmly established on a global scale.

But even this is still not everything: Europe can become the testing ground where the gradual dismantling of arms will begin. The accumulation of troops and weapons on the continent is such that even a slight reduction in them--we have in mind progress at the Vienna talks--should enable Europeans to breathe more freely and feel more secure. And along with Europe people living outside its borders would also experience a sense of relief.

In an uneasy and unstable world what is durable must be particularly valued and safeguarded. Europe is the nucleus of stability throughout the planet. It must be protected against corrosion. And this is best done in concert through collective efforts.

In his interview for America's TIME magazine L.I. Brezhnev expressed the conviction that good-neighborliness--regardless of differences in political systems and views--is the very best line in interstate relations. Europe has seen for itself from its own grim and bitter historical experience that this really is so. This is recorded as the fundamental line in the Final Act of the all-European conference.

It is evidently necessary to evaluate everything that happens in Europe from the viewpoint of good-neighborliness. Do events and the decisions being adopted correspond to the norms and imperatives of detente and the interests of cooperation? Or, on the contrary, do they run counter to the spirit of Helsinki?

The warm winds of detente can be felt in Europe. But the climate on the continent is still subject, to a considerable degree, to the effect of cold cyclones from the Atlantic. Europeans feel this. Press reports from a number of NATO countries cannot fail to provoke caution: The Pentagon intends to "cheer" Europe up with new medium-range missiles. Boisterous NATO military demonstrations are continuing. Luxembourg is being forced to make its territory available for the construction of two military bases for the U.S. Armed Forces. Norway--also not without external pressure--intends to permit the storage of NATO combat materiel on its land.

All this does not fit in with Europe's post-Helsinki landscape. Nor do the obstructionist tactics to which the Western powers have been resorting at the Vienna talks for more than 5 years in response to the socialist states' realistic compromise proposals. The question arises: Do the Western powers want to reduce their troops and arms at all, or do they just want to debate reductions? If the Western powers really sincerely seek to supplement political detente with military detente, as they constantly declare, then it is necessary to start with Europe, with progress at the Vienna talks.

The most important task in European politics now is the practical building of a security system and the realization of the military detente program proposed by the Warsaw Pact members. With what would it be possible to start? With mutual reduction in the military activities of the Warsaw Pact and NATO states, for example. With limiting the scale of military exercises. With the participants in the all-European conference concluding a treaty renouncing first use of both nuclear and conventional arms against each other, as L.I. Brezhnev proposed in his 2 March speech to the voters of Moscow's Baumanskiy Electoral Okrug.

These are quite realistic and feasible measures, given the will to implement them! Without military detente, without reducing the concentration of both sides' forces in central Europe, it is impossible to further develop the success achieved at the all-European conference.

Europe carries on its shoulders the great and responsible burden of world affairs. Thanks to the detente policy, the likelihood of conflict between the two worlds has been lessened on the continent, where it would be most dangerous.

The experience of the continent, which has now been resolving its affairs and disputes for one-third of a century without resorting to force of arms, belongs not only to Europe. It is universal. It can and must become the property of the whole world.

GISCARD'S VISIT TO USSR DELAYED BY 3 WEEKS

LD271818 Moscow TASS in English 1816 GMT 27 Mar 79 LD

["Joint Soviet-French Announcement"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 27, TASS--In conformity with mutual understanding, the Soviet and French sides have decided that the official working visit of President Valery Giscard d'Estaing of France to the Soviet Union, which was planned to start on March 29 this year, will be paid three weeks later. The exact date of the visit is to be announced additionally.

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER ON FAVORABLE PROSPECTS FOR TRIP

LD280811 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 79 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[TASS report: "Favorable Prospects: J. Francois-Poncet's Speech"]

[Text] Paris, 23 March--The prospects for French President V. Giscard d'Estaing's upcoming trip to the USSR are very favorable, French Foreign Minister J. Francois-Poncet has declared on television here. The chief purpose of this trip is "to take one more step forward on the path of detente, which is one of the fundamental directions of our foreign policy."

There is no reasonable alternative to the detente policy; the alternative would be to consent to the risk of war, the minister emphasized. A broad exchange of opinions will take place between the president of the French Republic and President L.I. Brezhnev on questions of detente.

The minister expressed his confidence that V. Giscard d'Estaing's visit to Moscow will serve to further strengthen relations between the Soviet Union and France and lead to concrete results in economic and commercial cooperation.

I would like to remind you, J. Francois-Poncet said, that in approximately 10 years our trade with the Soviet Union has increased fromFr 1 billion toFr 13 billion a year. The Soviet Union has become one of our major trading partners, particularly in the sphere of equipment. The French president's visit will be exceptionally important from both the political and economic viewpoints.

Touching on the situation in the Near East, J. Francois-Poncet pointed tothe need for a comprehensive settlement of the conflict in that region which, in his words, must include the solution of the Palestinian problem and Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories.

FRANCE, USSR SIGN AGREEMENT ON ELECTRONIC COMPUTER FOR TASS

LD272206 Moscow TASS in English 2103 GMT 27 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 27, TASS--A contract between the Soviet association Electronorgtekhnika and the French Sodeteg Tai was signed today at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Trade. Under the contract a large-capacity electronic computing system will be supplied for the information service of the Soviet news agency TASS. Deliveries of equipment will already be started this year. Thiswill make it possible to use the system for information purposes by the beginning of the 1980 Olympics in Moscow.

The automated system is based on the large capacity electron computer Iris-80. Besides that, it will include other equipment. In addition to Sodeteg Tai, the firms CII-Honeywell-Bull, Sems, Thomson-CSF and Sterea participate in the implementation of the contract.

Chairman of the association Electronorgtekhnika Yuriy Shcherbina said that the deal will serve as the basis for further development of cooperation with French firms in the sphere of informatics. The Soviet industry producing electronic computing machinery is developing at a high pace and we hope that cooperation will be implemented not only in the sphere of deliveries of products of French firms to the Soviet Union but also in deliveries of similar equipment of the Soviet-make to France.

Vice president of Sodeteg Tai Paul-Bernard Worb said that due to the technical characteristics of the system, the contract that was concluded is far beyond the frame of usual deliveries. He believes that the widening of ties of French firms with Soviet organizations in this sphere will, undoubtedly, promote the development of economic cooperation between the two countries.

USSR Minister of Foreign Trade Nikolay Patolichev was present at the signing of the contract.

HUGE MAJORITY OF FINNS FAVOR CONTINUING PRESENT COURSE

LD211116 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0350 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Text] In its commentator's column today, PRAVDA publishes an article by Yuriy Kuznetsov entitled "Chief Result of the Elections." The article says: Routine parliamentary elections have taken place in Finland. Altogether, 81.4 percent of the total electorate of 3.8 million took part in them [words indistinct] candidates of 12 political parties. The elections took place in a complex political and economic situation. The country is still affected by the consequences of the general crisis which has struck the capitalist economy.

This situation was used by rightwing bourgeois circles, which played on the dissatisfaction of the electorate to strengthen their position in Parliament. However, and this is the chief result of the elections, the rightwingers did not manage to radically change the correlation of forces in Parliament.

The country's three leading political parties which take part in the government, the Social Democrats, the Communists--within the framework of the Finnish People's Democratic League--and the Center Party together with its allies, despite certain losses, on the whole retained their seats and the support of approximately two-thirds of the electorate. In percentage terms, according to preliminary figures, the votes were cast as follows: the Finnish Social Democratic Party gained 24 percent of the votes cast and 52 seats in Parliament; the Finnish People's Democratic League gained 17.9 percent of the votes cast and 35 seats; the Center Party gained 17.4 percent and 36 seats; the National Coalition Party 21.7 percent and 45 seats; and the remaining votes cast and seats in Parliament were distributed among the smaller parties.

The results of the parliamentary elections show with the utmost clarity, Yuriy Kuznetsov writes, that the huge majority of Finns favor, as before, continuing the political course which in the foreign policy sphere is primarily aimed at preserving, strengthening and developing friendship and cooperation between Finland and the Soviet Union. The Finnish electorate clearly demonstrated its understanding of the vital necessity of strengthening relations between our countries in accordance with the spirit and letter of the Soviet-Finnish friendship, cooperation and mutual aid treaty. This course insures for Finland on the international scene the reputation of a peace-loving, democratic state which enjoys well-deserved prestige and the respect of world public opinion.

VALLETTA MEETING VIEWS TIES WITH MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

LD231802 Moscow TASS in English 1722 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

["For Good Neighbourliness and Cooperation"--TASS headline]

[Text] Valletta, March 23, TASS--A meeting of experts is under way in the capital of Malta, Valletta, on the basis of the principles elaborated in Helsinki. The meeting is bound to prepare recommendations for a further expansion of economic, scientific and cultural cooperation of 35 states, parties to the all-European conference with the Mediterranean countries. Representatives of socialist countries and also a number of other states offered at the meeting concrete ideas and proposals.

An official document, submitted by Bulgaria, the GDR, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, stresses the importance of mutually beneficial cooperation of European states, the United States and Canada with the Mediterranean countries of Africa and the Middle East in different spheres of economy, science and culture both on the bilateral and multilateral. Stressed in the propoals is also the inadmissibility in the practice of international economic relations of manifestations of discrimination, inequality, diktat and exploitation which stand in the way of normal economic cooperation and trade links.

The drafting of final conclusions and recommendations is now actively under way at the meeting of experts. Many delegations express the opinion that its positive outcome will become yet another contribution to consolidation of detente and expansion of cooperation envisaged by the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

TURKISH SENATORS RECEIVED IN SOVIET GEORGIA

LD280817 Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 15 Mar 79 p 2 LD

[GRUZINFORM report: "Guests From Turkey"]

[Text] O.Ye. Cherkeziya, deputy chairman of the Georgian Council of Ministers, received Turkish Senators Muhsin Batur, retired General of Aviation Abdullah Kesoglu and Muzaffer Shamiloglu, who are in the republic.

They came here at the invitation of the Georgian society for cultural relations with compatriots abroad.

Welcoming the guests, O.Ye. Cherkeziya noted that everyone who comes to Georgia is given the opportunity to find out and to see how its people live and what transformations have taken place on Georgian soil in the years of Soviet power. He stressed the significance of friendly visits and personal contacts for better mutual understanding and for strengthening trust between peoples.

Muhsin Batur stated that Turkey's progressive public, true to Ataturk's precepts, advocates the further development of friendly relations with the Soviet Union. We note with satisfaction, he said, the growing level of economic cooperation with the Soviet Union. We would like our country's cultural ties with Georgia to be developed. On our return home we will describe the cordiality with which were were received in your republic.

Senator Abdullah Kesoglu noted the fruitful scientific research activity in the sphere of Turkish studies being done at the Georgian Academy of Sciences Institute of Oriental Studies, and stressed the importance of organizing research work in Georgian studies in Turkey.

The talk was attended by K.G. Bukhnikashvili, chief of the republican Council of Ministers Culture Department; O.S. Gigineishvili, chairman of the Georgian society for cultural relations with compatriots abroad; and G.V. Galorge, deputy chairman of that society.

Praise for Visit to USSR

LD261524 Moscow TASS in English 1441 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Baku, March 26, TASS--"There is neither racial nor national discrimination in the USSR. People everywhere look happy and confident of the morrow". Such is the impression of Muzaffer Shamiloglu, a Turkish senator who visited Moscow, Leningrad, Transcaucasion republics. Together with Senator Abdullah Kesoglu he toured the USSR at the invitation of the Soviet society Rodina (motherland).

The achievements of the Soviet people, whose high living standards we witnessed, Shamiloglu said at a reception in the Azerbaijan Society of Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, attest to the successes of the Soviet Union's home and foreign policy, of the efforts of the Soviet state aimed at the deepening of the relaxation of international tensions and consolidation of world peace.

Shamiloglu declared for the need to continue developing economic and cultural ties between Turkey and the USSR on the basis of the principles of goodneighbourliness and mutual respect.

CONTINUING COMMENT ON EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PEACE TREATY SIGNING

Israel Free to Pursue 'Genocide'

LD271155 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 24 Mar 79 p 3 LD

["Observer" Gennadiy Shishkin article: "Prisoners of Illusions"]

[Text] The last preparations for the signing of the separate Egypt-Israel deal planned for 28 March are being completed in Washington. Official American propaganda on this subject asserts that a "decisive step toward peace" has been taken in the Near East and a "historic success" supposedly achieved on the path to a comprehensive settlement in that region.

The groundlessness of these illusions which the White House is attempting to sow was perhaps shown best of all by none other than Israeli Prime Minister M. Begin himself in his speech in the Knesset. "Israel," he stated categorically, "will never return to the borders existing before June 1967. Israel will never allow a Palestinian state to be created on the West Bank of the Jordan. Jerusalem, united and unified will always remain the capital of Israel."

Egyptian President as-Sadat is now preparing to place his signature next to Begin's on a document confirming these annexationist claims. He has set himself against the whole Arab world, who long ago justly branded him as the worst traitor to the interests of the peoples of the Arab countries which are the victims of Israeli aggression. The Egyptian-Israeli deal, a Lebanese Communist Party statement says, aims to consolidate Israel's occupation of Arab lands, deprive the Arab people of Palestine of their lawful rights and smother their revolutionary struggle.

The spectacle played out in Washington, with dramatic changes of pessimistic and optimistic appraisals of the prospects for concluding a separate deal and the dramatic contrasting of "irreconcilable contradictions" between As-Sadat and Begin was designed only to mask As-Sadat's shameful capitulation. Now, after the publication of the texts of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, the interpretive letter attached to it and the separate exchange of letters about "autonomy" in the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip, which were long kept secret, As-Sadat's traitorous role appears before the whole world in all its unseemly nakedness.

These documents fully expose the American and Egyptian propaganda attempts to falsify the content of the Egyptian-Israeli deal and present it as a model for a peace settlement in the Near East. The text of the treaty is identical to the text of the document published right after the first stage of the talks in Washington in November 1978 and accepted by Begin's government at that time. The articles of the treaty infringing Egypt's interests, for whose revision As-Sadat has supposedly been fighting all this time, remain unchanged. To a considerable extent the treaty limits Egypt's sovereignty over the Sinai Peninsula, declares that territory a nonmilitarized zone and forbids Cairo from keeping troops there.

The interpretive letter, which was As-Sadat's idea to incorporate Egypt's "special" viewpoint, was compiled with the Americans' help in such a way as to strengthen the meaning of the provisions in the "disputed" articles of the treaty in Israel's favor. The text of the document on "autonomy" in the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip even further exposes As-Sadat's policy. It says nothing whatever about any link between the granting of "autonomy" to the Palestinians and the Egyptian-Israeli treaty.

Thus the separate deal has been concluded entirely at Egypt's expense and does not resolve any of the main questions of the Near East conflict. As.Y. 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, stresses, it "legalizes the Israeli occupation of Arab territories anddooms the 3 million Arab people of Palestine to eternal exile. Cairo's capitulation has untied the hands of Tel Aviv, which feels increasingly free to do what it likes. In southern Lebanon the Israeli militarists are currently methodically killing Palestinians, effectively pursuing a policy of genocide against them. It is completely obvious that Israel intends to solve the Palestinian problem by means of the physical destruction of the entire Palestinian Arab people.

Hypocritical talk by White House representatives about "peace" in the Near East also seems absurd to say the least, because it is accompanied by feverish activity on the part of the U.S., Israeli and Egyptian military departments. As-Sadat, as is known, has already set about fulfilling the role prepared for him as gendarme in the Near East. Egyptian forces have been sent to Oman, whose people are waging a stubborn struggle against the rotten regime of Sultan Qabus. Reports have appeared of Egyptian units, including tanks and aircraft, concentrating on the Libyan border.

The Egyptian-Israeli plot under the U.S. aegis is already creating a direct threat to the Arab states' interests and makes a comprehensive settlement of the Near East problem, even more remote. As-Sadat is rewarded for all this by promises from Washington to supply him with American arms. As for Israel, it remains the U.S. favorite. As a result of the talks between U.S. Defense Secretary Brown and Israeli Defense Minister Weizman, Israel was promised additional military aid of $3 billion. The Egyptian-Israeli deal will bring not peace but the exacerbation of the arms race in this explosive region. Even the hard-bitten American Senator W. Proxmire who, it would seem, is very hard to shock, could not refrain from stating: "I cannot grasp how it is possible to seek peace by increasing supplies of arms to Israel and Egypt."

Forging ahead with plans to insure a permanent military presence for itself, the Washington administration is striving to exclude from a Near East settlement countries directly interested in it, including the Soviet Union. Step by step it is burning the bridges built over a number of years between the USSR and U.S. positions on these questions.

The peoples of the Near East resolutely reject the separate Egyptian-Israeli deal. Every day more and more reports are received of protest demonstrations, of condemnation of the deal by Arab countries' leaders and a strengthening rebuff to Washington's adventurist plans and actions in this region.

Treaty Results, New Conflicts, Tensions

LD271855 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1140 GMT 27 Mar 79 LD

[Commentary by Aleksandr Bovin, IZVESTIYA political observer, entitled "The Separate Deal in the Near East Is a Betrayal of the Interests of the Arab People," from the "Topical Problems of International Life" series]

[Text] Good day, comrades. As you already know, on Monday the Egyptian president and the Israeli prime minister signed a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel in Washington.

The President of the United States also put his signature to this treaty. Well, let us examine what this means.

The main content of the treaty boils down to two points--paragraph 2, Article I, I quote:

Israel withdraws all its armed forces and civilian personnel from Sinai.

And paragraph 3, Article III, I quote:

The sides agree that the normal relations which will be established between them will include full recognition, diplomatic, economic and cultural relations, an end to the economic boycott and that they be of a nondiscriminatory nature.

As you see, this is a natural exchange, so to speak. Egypt receives the Sinai Peninsula and Israel obtains peace. This, I repeat, is the main thing, and no legal jargon or figures of speech can conceal the crux of the matter. As-Sadat has betrayed his allies Syria and Jordan. As-Sadat has betrayed the Palestinians. As-Sadat has given peace to the aggressor, letting him retain the West Bank of Jordan and the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and the Arab part of Jerusalem, that is, all the occupied lands except Sinai. And if one talks of As-Sadat's capitulations or when one writes about the separate deal it is not emotional overexaggeration or propagandistic phraseology. It is a true description of what is happening.

I do not believe that either As-Sadat or Begin signed the peace treaty with a light heart. Their attitudes toward each other's intentions are deeply distrustful. Both of them are sufficiently versed in politics to realize that the papers they signed are full of deception and self-deception. They both fear the future. They fear the uncontrollable reaction which Egypt's going over to the enemies of the Arab nations could arouse. And yet the treaty was signed nevertheless. Hence those who signed it had sufficiently strong motives to overcome their doubts and mistrust.

Well, let us now examine these motives. Israel's calculations are the most straightforward. It was important for it that the united front of the Arab states be split, that Egypt be taken out of the game and at the same time that its strategic situation be changed radically. It was naturally worth sacrificing the Sinai for this. I think one should remember that Tel Aviv's decision to liquidate the Israeli settlements on the Sinai and to commence talks on autonomy for the Palestinians gave rise to a loud campaign of protest among the ultrarightwingers in Israel's political life. But Begin, who was being supported and pushed on by the United States, firmly stood his ground on this point. Israel's ruling circles realize that the country's economy is under too much pressure, that the antiwar feeling is growing stronger and that social tensions are mounting. By their reckoning the treaty with Egypt will make it possible to let off steam, even if only temporarily, and provide hope even if it is only illusory. Hence the widely publicized concessions, with the word concessions in quotation marks of course, since Israel has conceded what does not belong to it. But these are tested tactics: to give up part of what was occupied in order to legalize the occupation of the rest. This is an aggressor's logic. Israel gave up Sinai but in place of that it obtained the legal sanction for the unlimited occupation of the remaining Arab lands.

But what of Egypt? As-Sadat's capitulationist betrayal may be explained, to my mind, not by foreign but by internal political reasons.

The regime's general move to the right and the increase in the political influence of the Egyptian bourgeoisie created the prerequisites for a gradual erosion of that soil which had engendered the conflict between Israel and Egypt. In addition to this there was the regime's progressive instability, of course, the economy's chronic lethargy, the corruption among the government and bureaucracy, the luxurious life being led by the leaders on a background of mass poverty, the oppressive weight of military spending, in a word, the well-known Iranian symptoms.

Naturally, I am not aware of what As-Sadat had to say to his friend, the shah, in Aswan. But I am almost sure that As-Sadat came to the correct conclusion. In our era, every shah has his ayatollah. In this context, the normalization of relations with Tel Aviv could not have been seen by Cairo as a means of pacifying the people with the promise of the advantages of a peaceful life and of stabilizing the situation in the country.

On the foreign policy level, As-Sadat's actions were aimed at insuring Washington's stable and constant support. The thinking on this was elementary: Israel is an ally of the United States. And in order to please the states and obtain its blessing one had to meet Israel halfway. This is just what happened. Without American economic and military aid, As-Sadat would be stuck now. As-Sadat is neither one thing nor another now, said a representative of the administration, according to the Washington POST. And this is precisely it. Help has to be forthcoming, since the Americans naturally need As-Sadat.

Even long before Camp David it was clear that As-Sadat was intending to pay for his friendship with America and for peace with Israel with Palestinian interests. Clearly he presumed that the royal houses of Jordan and Saudi Arabia would not wring their hands over the Palestinian radicals. But things turned out differently. In this case their common national and religious backgrounds outweighed their sociopolitical differences. Amman and Riyadh supported the Palestinians and condemned As-Sadat. But since neither Cairo nor Washington were interested in seeing Egypt in political isolation, rather complicated manoeuvering began with the aim of sticking the Egyptian-Israeli treaty to the Palestinian problem thereby masking the betrayal. The sticking process continued for a long time, but let us see what happened:

There is nothing, not a single word, in the treaty about the Palestinian problem. But instead there is an exchange note between Egypt and Israel regarding measures for autonomous power--this is what the document is called. It states that in the course of 1 month, following the exchange of the instruments of ratification, the sides agreed to begin talks. The aim of these talks is to establish autonomous power on the West Bank and in Gaza in the name of implementing full autonomy for the inhabitants of the above-mentioned areas.

These talks are to be concluded in the course of a year, then there are to be elections to these autonomous authorities and a 5-year transitional period begins. What is to happen in this 5-year transitional period? The message says: The Israeli military administration and civil administration withdraw, to be replaced by autonomous authorities. It is in this period that Israeli armed forces are withdrawn and remaining Israeli units are relocated to the established security zones.

All of this is so threadbare as to fool only someone who wants to be deceived. First, the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, is excluded from the talks. Second, Israeli settlements and Israeli troops remain on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip even after the 5-year period. Thus it is full autonomy under Israeli sovereignty, that is the whole package.

But while As-Sadat was arranging this fig-leaf to conceal his treachery, Begin was not sparing his newfound friend. Last week he stated in the Knesset, waving such packages aside, that Israel would never leave the West Bank. As-Sadat had to swallow the bitter pill. What a mess!

Now, about the positions and policy of the United States. It is asserted in Washington that the Near East region is important for the States from at least two points of view, the political one, because of the proximity of the Soviet Union, and the economic one, because of oil. The aims of U.S. policy are defined accordingly--to limit as far as possible the influence of the Soviet Union and to guarantee uninterrupted oil supplies.

In the opinion of the Washington strategists, a continuation of the Near East conflict is fraught with consequences dangerous for the United States in both of the aspects mentioned. For this reason it is necessary to stabilize the situation, they reckon in Washington, but in such a way that it is in the interests of the United States. Such is the Americans' overall strategic pose. And the tactical moves to adopt it were suggested by the evolution of the Cairo regime which I have already mentioned. It is here that the weak linked in the chain of Arab states confronting Israel was felt. In the final analysis, all kinds of (?pro-forma) nuances were not too important for Washington; what was important was a political solution--a world carved up according to the USA's yardstick and guaranteeing U.S. interests. For this it was necessary to make Cairo close its eyes to all the negative aspects of the separate agreement. For this it was necessary to make Tel Aviv understand that unless a little was conceded a great deal could not be kept. For this it was necessary to assure both capitals of the unconditional reliability of U.S. guarantees. Meanwhile the Americans have never before acted so assertively, throwing in everything--assurances, pressure and bluffing. It was almost a case of tears in the parliaments of both countries, and finally the weightiest argument, the dollar, was used.

At the beginning Washington was, as it were, embarrassed to wheel out this idea of far-reaching financial aid but surely it did not expect simply to buy a treaty. But the events in Iran forced them to forget about over-fastidiousness; signing the treaty, Carter was in essence signing a check for sums in the thousands of millions.

The Americans see the Egyptian-Israeli rapprochement as the first step in creating an axis of moderate pro-Western states in the Near East and surrounding region, intended to make up for the loss of Iran and the collapse of CENTO. The U.S. strategies, the Paris LE MATIN wrote recently, for instance, are aimed at basing oneself in the future on two pro-U.S. centers [ochag], one in Israel and the other an Arab one. And the role of the link joining them, the paper continues, is allocated to Egypt, which makes the speedy conclusion of an Egyptian-Israeli treaty an urgent necessity.

It would seem that all is in order concerning the Israeli center; Egypt has agreed to play its role and is even going beyond it. But what about the other center, that is, Jordan and Saudi Arabia? The Americans are applying pressure here as hard as they can. Brown, as befits a defense secretary, promises arms. Brzezinski, as befits a strategist, frightens them with the Soviet threat and the prospect of radicalization. But somehow things do not go the way the Americans want. In Amman and Riyadh they do not want to recognize As-Sadat as a world hero and share the burden of treachery with him. Saudi Crown Prince Fahd, answering the Americans' arguments, noted: One gets the impression that they do not understand, are not aware, in America that since the 1967 war Israel's policy has been a policy of gradual annexation of the West Bank. What significance, the prince continues, can autonomy have for the Palestinians in such circumstances? Only as a new cover for further Israeli occupation.

Well, of course, they will understand this and are aware of it all in America. Only for the United States the fate of the Palestinians is only small change in a big political game. When the United States is trying to gain the rights of master over some region, what have human rights to do with it?

And so the treaty has been signed. It is applauded in Washington, As-Sadat and Begin laud it, and the Arabs reject it. What comes now? The United States, despite all the lessons of history, will strive to step up its presence, political, economic, and, if it can, military, in the Near East. Egypt, continuing hypocritical rhetoric on the Palestinian theme, will draw closer to Israel and the Americans, dooming itself to growing isolation in the Arab world. Israel will remain and consolidate on the occupied territories, will seek quislings among its Palestinians and take over the Egyptian market. The Arab countries, which have now been jointed by Iran will regroup their forces to compensate for the treachery of Cairo and to step up political pressure on Israel. The Palestinians, leaning on the support of their friends, will continue their struggle.

They say that a bad peace is better than a good quarrel; this is always true at a community canteen, but it is far from always so in politics. The increase in contradictions and tension on all fronts, the stepping up of the arms race and thus of the danger of a fresh conflict--such will be the real political results of the Washington treaty.

Poor Solution to Peace Problems

LD271842 Moscow TASS in English 1800 GMT 27 Mar 79 LD

[Anti-Arab Deal in the Middle East--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 27, TASS--Analysing the texts of the separate Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, and also the supplements to it, including the military ones, signed in Washington yesterday, observers note that Cairo had capitulated on all the key issues. The treaty actually rules out all the other international commitments of Egypt, including those assumed under the agreements on joint defense with the Arab nations. This is confirmed by the Egyptian Government itself. The freezing of Egypt's membership in the League of Arab States was officially announced in Cairo today.

Under Tel Aviv's pressure Egypt has agreed that a stage-by-stage withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Sinai Peninsula should be dragged out for a period of three years. It assumed a commitment to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel within only nine months after the treaty enters into force. Israeli ships will receive the right of free passage through the Suez Canal. Having signed the treaty, Egypt has actually confirmed that it is no longer the master of Sinai oil. It assumed a commitment to supply large quantities of "black gold" to Israel from the deposits in the peninsula, becoming, thereby, the first Arab state to furnish the Israeli machine of aggression with fuel.

The Egyptian-Israeli separate deal fully ignores the inalienable rights of the Arab people of Palestine and its sole lawful representative--the Palestine Liberation Organisation. The correspondents, who covered the signing of the separate treaty, noted that speaking during this ceremony As-Sadat omitted several phrases in support of the Palestinians which were contained in the initial text of his speech handed out to pressmen in advance. The Egyptian Embassy in Washington hastened to explain that As-Sadat did it "by mistake", but in the political circles this "blunder" was qualified as a deliberate gesture, called upon to demonstrate the Egyptian president's desire "not to complicate" relations with Tel Aviv and Washington.

In the meantime, As-Sadat's partner under the separate deal, the Israeli Prime Minister Begin, did not refrain from reaffirming his tough stand even at the signing ceremony. The New York TIMES says that he repeated his views on the Jerusalem problem. Their essence, as known, boils down to the assertion that Israel will never pull out of the occupied Arab part of the city, will regard Jerusalem as its capital, although this contradicts the U.N. resolutions.

Thus, the Egyptian-Israeli separate treaty fully circumvents the pivotal problems of a Middle East settlement, namely the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and satisfaction of the lawful rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to create a national state. Furthermore, it leads to a further escalation of tensions in that region and creates a serious obstacle to the achievement of a just peace in the Middle East.

"Two questions lie at the bedrock of the Middle East conflict--Palestine and Jerusalem, The French newspaper L'ECHO recalls, and no solution has been reached on either of them. Thus, the Egyptian-Israeli treaty solves nothing and leaves everything for the future." It is not surprising, LE FIGARO stresses, that "all the governments of the region from Algeria to the Persian Gulf have spoken up against the agreement."

'Humiliating Surrender' by As-Sadat

LD272241 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab world 1200 GMT 27 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow Radio commentator Aleksey Zlatorunskiy writes:

Until now, it used to be considered that the trademark of U.S. industry was confined to [word indistinct], nylon shirts and other goods exported by the United States. But the U.S. industry trademark was put on a political document, namely, the separate Egyptian-Israeli deal. The AFP reporter in Washington said that the United States has opened a new area for its military, diplomatic and economic presence in the Middle East.

This step toward the new imperialist conspiracy in the area has been portrayed to public opinion as the peace which had long been expected following the state of war between the Arabs and Israel that has lasted for 30 years. The truth is that this document, signed by As-Sadat and Begin and dictated by Carter, is nothing but a step toward war, the war in which Washington is endeavoring to use Egypt to serve the interests of imperialism and Zionism.

It is not by chance that the talks on preparing and signing the separate Egyptian-Israeli deal were accompanied by other talks on escalating to unprecedented degree the Israeli war offensive capabilities, on military supplies to Egypt and on cooperation between the armed forces of these two states. But preparation for real peace by no means calls for raising issues of the armament race for discussion in the first place.

In a speech delivered during the ceremony of shame for signing the separate deal, President As-Sadat enthusiastically said that a new dawn has appeared in the Middle East. It lights the way and it liquidates hostility and war. There is no doubt that President As-Sadat will very shortly be certain of the extensive ridicule characterizing this (?prediction) at the time of the treaty signing.

The heroic path of the Arab people's struggle against colonialist union in an absolute and convincing way shows that the Arabs have not accepted that humiliating situation which the authors of the document are trying to impose on them.

Today, Tel Aviv is showing great pleasure and satisfaction. Begin and his ministers are not concealing the historic meaning, according to them, of this action. As-Sadat has actually signed without right or powers the document which grants Israel the right to settle in the occupied Arab territory. He agreed to forget the Palestinian issue and recognize the right of the Zionists to possess the Arab part of Jerusalem.

Not only Tel Aviv is pleased, but leaders of international Zionist organizations headquartered in the United States, have been among the first to send congratulations to As-Sadat. As regards the Arabs, Carter expressed regret that a number of Arab leaders have so far shown no readiness to sign the peace treaty American style. A number of leaders means here Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat and the leaders of Jordan, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Morocco and Kuwait. Or, the vast majority of Arab states which also want peace.

But the deal which is stamped with the U.S. industry trademark and signed in Washington has no link whatsoever with peace. It bears the frank mark of humiliating surrender.

Socialist Countries' Stand

LD272242 Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1400 GMT 27 Mar 79 LD

[Text] A commentary in connection with the Egyptian-Israeli treaty concluded and signed under the United States' patronage is by our observer Valentin Lapin. This is what he writes:

The signing ceremony abounded in pompous words about peace in the Middle East coming from officials who made and inspired the deal. But no attempts to dress the treaty could conceal the obvious fact that it is spearheaded against peace and the Arab peoples.

Significantly, while the signing ceremony took place in Washington the Arab countries and the Israeli-occupied territories witnessed powerful demonstrations and protests. The Arab world rejects the Egyptian-Israeli deal as one designed to perpetuate the Israeli occupation of Arab land and to deprive the Arab people of Palestine of the right to freedom and independence once and for all. The United States wants to use the treaty as a cover-up for expanding its military presence in the Middle East. Egypt becomes a policeman in the service of Washington and Tel Aviv. The tripartite alliance of the United States, Egypt and Israel is intended to perform the functions of the disintegrated CENTO bloc.

President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr of Iraq has described the treaty as a threat to peace, and not only in the Middle East. President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria has pointed out that the treaty is not worth even the paper it is signed on. The Algerian president, Chadli Benjedid, has said there could be no lasting peace in the region without the settlement of the Palestinian problem which the parties to the separate deal had ignored. Practically all Arab countries have rejected (?being) part of separate deals. Arab representatives are meeting in Baghdad today to discuss sanctions against the as-Sadat regime.

Outside the Arab world the treaty has also come under criticism. In an official statement Iran has turned it down as a deal that conflicts with the interests of the Arabs and of peace in the Middle East. The United Nations secretary general, Kurt Waldheim, doubts the ability of the treaty to solve the Middle East problem because it ignores the core of this problem, the Palestinian question. The few persons who hastened to approve the deal include the former Nazi and now secretary general of NATO, Joseph Luns, and the Beijing leaders. As before, the enemies of the easing of tensions, the militarists and the seekers of world domination have found themselves in one camp.

The Soviet Union and the rest of the socialist community take a stand of principle on the Middle East problem. The Soviet foreign minister, Andrey Gromyko, has declared that the separate Israel-Egyptian treaty creates new barriers to peace in the Middle East, that it further tightens the knot of the Middle East contradictions and sows in abundance the seeds of new conflicts and upheavals in the region. A genuine peace must rest on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all the Arab territory occupied in 1967. It must rest on the satisfaction of the inalienable rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to an independent state of their own, and on ensuring the security and independence of all the countries in the region.

Moscow Muslim Leader Statement

LD271015 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab world 1700 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[From the "Window on the Arab World" program presented by A. Timoshkin--talk by Ahmetzyan Mustafin, Imam of Moscow mosque]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate; praise be to God, peace and the blessing of God be upon the prophet, his family and companion. Dear brethren in the friendly Islamic countries, allow me to take this happy opportunity to exchange views on what could and should be done in defense of peace in the world. I greet you and welcome you on behalf of the capital of the Soviet Union and on my own behalf. I convey to you fraternal greetings and peace from the bottom of my heart and wish you good health. We officials consider it our sacred duty to serve the noble aims of peace, justice and friendship among peoples.

Dear brethren, the Soviet peoples in general and the Muslims in particular are following with great interest the conditions of their brothers, the Muslims, and the heroic struggle which they are waging for their liberation and independence, and how wicked colonialism is sowing the seeds of dissension among nations and peoples, breaking up their unity.

We, the Muslims of the Soviet Union, share and express the regret over the continuation of the (?Zionist) threat to peace in the Middle East. A separate Egyptian-Israeli treaty is to be signed. Genuine peace in the Arab East, however, will not be achieved by such a treaty. It will only be achieved by a just and comprehensive settlement that will guarantee the security of all the states of the Middle East. Also, Israel must withdraw its forces from all the Arab territories occupied by war and acknowledge the national rights of the Palestinian people, including their inalienable right to establish their own independent state. A just and durable settlement cannot be achieved in the Middle East except in accordance with the UN resolution which stipulates the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO and the acknowledgement of its right. We, the Muslims of the Soviet Union, call on all people of good-will and the democratic forces which cherish peace to intensify their efforts for a just struggle against Zionism, the enemy of peace and progress which kindled the flames of war in the Middle East and threatens peace and security of peoples in this region and world over. Peace be unto you.

BAGHDAD CONFERENCE ON SANCTIONS AGAINST EGYPT OPENS

LD271420 Moscow TASS in English 1408 GMT 27 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Baghdad, March 27, TASS--TASS correspondent Anatoliy Golovastov reports:

A conference of foreign ministers of Arab countries opened here today. On the agenda of the conference is one item--the application by Arab countries of political and economic sanctions against the present Egyptian regime whose leader, As-Sadat, signing the capitulatory treaty with Israel, betrayed the lawful interests of the Arab nation, above all, the Palestinian Arab people.

The overwhelming majority of Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation participate in the conference.

The leaders of Sudan, Oman and Djibouti did not send their representatives to Baghdad.

The decision to adopt political and economic sanctions against the present Egyptian regime in case it signs the so-called peace treaty with Israel was adopted at a conference of heads of state and government of Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation that was held in November of last year in Baghdad.

Speaking at the opening of the conference of foreign ministers, Deputy Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council of Iraq Saddam Husayn urged the participants in the meeting to fulfil completely the decisions of the Baghdad summit meeting on the sanctions against the present Egyptian regime.

SAUDI MINISTERS SUPPORT BAGHDAD SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS

LD271808 Moscow TASS in English 1528 GMT 27 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Paris, March 27, TASS--The ministers of foreign affairs and national economy of Saudi Arabia came out for observing the commitments imposed on Saudi Arabia by resolutions of the Baghdad summit conference of Arab states. This was stated by Minister of Information of Saudi Arabia Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, FRANCE PRESSE reports from Riyadh.

Ministers Sa'ud al-Faysal and Muhammad Aba al-Khayl spoke at a meeting of the Saudi Cabinet that discussed the Middle East situation in the light of the conclusion by As-Sadat of the separate peace treaty with Israel. The Cabinet stressed that Saudi Arabia adheres to the joint Arab stand.

As is known, the decisions of the Baghdad conference envisage that all Arab countries should adopt economic and political sanctions against Egypt after the signing of the "peace treaty" in Washington by As-Sadat.

PLO URGES IMPLEMENTATION OF SANCTIONS AGAINST EGYPT

LD271726 Moscow TASS in English 1510 GMT 27 Mar 79 LD

[Text] New York, March 27, TASS--The Palestine Liberation Organization has urged the Arab countries to declare an oil boycott on Egypt and the United States in protest against the signing of the so-called peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. According to the AP news agency, this was stated today by Ghazi Husayn, a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization at international organization in Vienna. He also said that the Palestine Liberation Organization would call upon the Arab states to boycott American commodities, to withdraw their capital from U.S. banks, to terminate aid to Egypt and to transfer the headquarters of the Arab League from Egypt to another Arab country.

SOVIET PRESS REPORTS DINNER SPEECHES IN DAMASCUS

Gromyko Speech

LD242332 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Mar 79 p 4 LD

[Text] Damascus, March 24, TASS--Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko, now in Syria on a short friendly visit, made a speech at a dinner given in his honour by Jamil Shayya, deputy prime minister for economic affairs.

Andrey Gromyko said: The Soviet Union and Syria share a mutual desire to develop fruitful cooperation between them. Much has already been done in this respect and much is still to be done. The main thing is that both sides, the Soviet Union and Syria, come out for the further strengthening of Soviet-Syrian friendship.

It is natural that the talk he had with President Hafiz al-Asad centered on the Middle East situation, especially in connection with the forthcoming signature of the Israeli-Egyptian separate treaty. However much the architects and inspirers of this treaty may try to embellish it, it is absolutely clear that this treaty is spearheaded against the Arabs. It strikes a blow at the interests of all Arabs without exception.

It goes without saying that such a treaty cannot lead to a just, and hence, lasting peace in the Middle East. And it is not intended for this. Its real purpose is to try and consolidate the result of the imperialist aggression of many years against the Arabs.

That is exactly how matters stand if one looks the truth in the face and does not try to hide behind phrases on good intentions, as is done by those who would like to conceal this truth. Suffice it to say that this treaty breathes hostility to the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine and their aspirations for the establishment of their own state. Is it possible therefore to speak in earnest that such a treaty can clear the way to peace in the Middle East?

No, the Israeli-Egyptian separate treaty creates new roadblocks on this way, tightens still more the knot of Middle Eastern contradictions and sows plenty of seeds of new conflicts and upheavals in the area.

Maybe such a prospect suits those who seek at any price to bring about the conclusion of a separate agreement hostile to Arabs, but such a prospect definitely does not suit the Arabs and all those who prize peace.

The Soviet Union's sympathy and support are on the side of the peoples fighting for their freedom and independence, against machinations of imperialism, machinations of the aggressor. We highly appreciate the active position of Syria which is courageously fighting for the liquidation of the consequences of Israel's aggression.

In the present conditions the cohesion of all Arab states which come out for a just Middle East settlement and against separate capitulatory deals, is more important than ever before. The more united and firmer the Arab countries are in upholding their rights, the more difficult it will be for their enemies to impose decisions contrary to their interests. In our opinion, the decisions of the Baghdad conference of Arab states represent a good basis for their joint actions.

The Soviet Union, for its part, is prepared to act, as before, together with all those who hold dear the ideals of justice and peace in the Middle East. It is natural that such interaction is effected most fully with the Arab states with which the Soviet Union has friendly relations. But, of course, we have no prejudices either against other Arab states which hold a realistic worthy position.

The Soviet state invariably comes out in defence of peace and justice. For us peace and justice are indivisible. Setting forth the content of our policy with regard to the Middle East, Leonid Brezhnev stressed most emphatically in his recent speech before the electors: "Here, just as in other regions of the world we do not seek any benefits for ourselves, do not claim the natural wealth of other countries. We stand for a lasting peace and we are firmly on the side of the legitimate rights of the Arab peoples, their struggle for the elimination of the consequences of Israel's aggression, against imperialist diktat, capitulatory deals and trade in the vital interests of Arabs.

The dinner passed in a warm, friendly atmosphere.

Present at the dinner on the Syrian side were A.K. 'Adi, minister of state for foreign affairs, and other officials.

Present on the Soviet side were G.M. Korniyenko, USSR first deputy foreign minister, and other figures accompanying A.A. Gromyko, as well as Yu.N. Chernyakov, USSR ambassador to Syria.

Syrian Deputy Premier Speech

LD281047 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Mar 79 p 4 LD

[Excerpt] Damascus, 25 March TASS--The Syrian leadership gave a dinner yesterday, during which J. Shayya, Syrian deputy prime minister, and A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, exchanged speeches.

J. Shayya said:

The distinctive feature of the period in which we are now living is that a new stage has begun in the development of events, a stage in which the United States and imperialism as a whole, with Egypt's help, are trying to harm the legitimate interests of Arabs and all progressive mankind. What is happening now is not leading to peace, but is, on the contrary, making peace in the Near East more remote.

Egypt asserts that its actions are aimed at insuring the rights of the Palestinian Arab people. However, in fact it is treason, and nobody has authorized Egypt to speak on the Palestinians' behalf.

In the face of what is happening, the Syrian leadership continues to implement a principled line based on right and justice. We have repeatedly put forward our concept of a just peace and the minimum conditions on which Arabs will agree to a settlement. Syria has stated repeatedly that peace is impossible until the lands occupied by Israel in 1967 are returned to the Arabs, and that there can be no peace without the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and the creation of an independent state on their homeland's soil.

We are confident that the Arab states, together with their friends, and above all the Soviet Union, will be able to frustrate the dangerous plans of imperialism and Israel. Syria has directed all its efforts toward the struggle against these plans, and with its active participation the National Steadfastness and Confrontation Front has been created, rapprochement with Iraq has taken place and the Baghdad summit conference was held, which adopted decisions showing that in the hour of danger Arabs can rally their ranks, speak with one voice and stand firm. Considerable efforts are now required of us to frustrate the hostile plans. We must mobilize ourselves and reject all that is contained in the separate Israeli-Egyptian treaty, with all the consequences which arise from it. In this connection I must note with profound gratitide the efforts the Soviet Union is making in the struggle for a just settlement in the Near East.

SOVIET MEDIA COMMENT ON SITUATION IN IRAN

New Chief of General Staff

LD271425 Moscow TASS in English 1409 GMT 27 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tehran, March 27, TASS--Division General Naser Farbod has been appointed chief of the general staff of the National Army of Iran by a decree issued by the prime minister of the country. According to a radio report, the appointment followed the resignation of M. Gharani, who earlier held the post.

Clashes in Gonbad-E Kavus

LD272110 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 27 Mar 79 LD

[Text] There are reports from Tehran of a second day of clashes between military forces and Turkmens who are requesting autonomy in the streets of the city of Gonbad-E Kavus, in northern Iran. Several people have been killed or wounded. These clashes started after nonmilitary units [word indistinct] dispersed a rally of 20,000 people in Gonbad-E Kavus. Participants in the rally requested autonomy. Some 60,000 Turkmen live in the Iranian province of Mazandaran.

OPEC DECIDES TO RAISE OIL PRICE BY 9 PERCENT

LD271344 Moscow TASS in English 1329 GMT 27 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Geneva, March 27, TASS--A ministerial meeting of OPEC countries has ended here. The participants in the meeting decided to raise oil prices on the average by nine percent. From now on a barrel of oil will cost 14.5 dollars. Representatives of oil producing countries came out for increasing oil prices in connection with the growth of inflation and the instability of the American dollar's exchange rate on the money markets.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

PATRIOTIC FRONT OFFICIAL INVERVIEWED BEFORE LEAVING MOSCOW

LD272010 Moscow TASS in English 1915 GMT 27 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 27, TASS--"The Zimbabwe people are grateful to the Government of the USSR, to all the Soviet people for their all-round support of and assistance to the actions against the racialist Smith regime," it was stated by Samuel Munodawafa, national chairman of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU), who visited Moscow in connection with the ending of the International Year of Struggle against Apartheid, announced last spring on the initiative of the United Nations.

Before leaving the Soviet Union, Samuel Munodawafa told a TASS correspondent:

"The International Year is over, but the struggle for the freedom and independence of the peoples of the south of Africa continues. At meetings and rallies in Moscow the Soviet public reaffirmed that it would go on siding firmly with the African patriots. Relying on the support of the Soviet Union, the other socialist nations, all the democratic forces, we shall achieve victory over racialism and neocolonialism".

At the same time Monodawafa noted: "The colonial racialist regimes in the south of Africa, backed by the forces of international imperialism, primarily the NATO countries, are endeavouring to put off their inevitable collapse, stop before no forms [as received] or methods of suppressing the liberation struggle. They resort to wholesale repressions, arrests and tortures, perpetrate constantly aggressive actions against the sovereign African states of Zambia, Angola, Mozambique and Botswana."

The racialists, Munodawafa continued, resort to vile farces: In Rhodesia, for instance, they plan to hold "elections" on an undemocratic basis in order to legalise the white minority rule. "The Zimbabwe patriots, who have launched guerrilla warfare against the abhorred Smith regime, solidarize with everybody who are upholding the freedom and independence of the peoples, whether it be in Africa, Latin America or Southeast Asia", Munodawafa said. He resolutely condemned Beijing's aggression against Socialist Vietnam.

S. AFRICAN PAPER CITED ON WESTERN AID IN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY

LD271206 Moscow TASS in English 1119 GMT 27 Mar 79 LD

["Complicity With Nuclear Ambitions"--TASS headline]

[Text] Maputo, March 27, TASS--The racists of the Republic of South Africa continue intensively working to develop nuclear weapons. According to the South African RAND DAILY MAIL, an uranium enrichment plant is under construction in full swing under the signboard of the "Sasol-2" centre to receive liquid fuel from coal.

Western countries, primarily NATO member-states, and also Israel, are actively involved in establishing a nuclear potential of the state of apartheid. Western atomic scientists carry out regular meetings and consultations with the Atomic Energy Board of the Republic of South Africa. In exchange for deliveries of South African uranium, they provide the racists with all the necessary nuclear technology and equipment. Thus, the RAND DAILY MAIL points out, Pretoria received from the FRG a laser unit that can be used in plutonium nuclear splitting, and a special isotope unit to determine the uranium content in ore.

A missile testing ground has been built with the help of West German firms on the Tsumeb test range in Namibia, which is occupied by the Pretoria regime. That ground is also used to test the latest systems of weapons.

Besides, different types of armaments are being supplied to the Republic of South Africa by scores of FRG companies, among which the newspaper mentions "AEG-Telefunken", "Siemens", "Mann", "Messerschmidt-Belkoff-Blom".

Western countries' complicity with the racists in the military and particularly the nuclear sphere, gives rise to legitimate concern and anxiety of independent Africa. An atomic bomb in the hands of the Pretoria rulers, as was repeatedly stated by the African National Congress of South Africa, is a real threat to peace and security not only on the African Continent, but also in the whole world, the more so that the Republic of South Africa has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

MACHINE TOOL MINISTER: MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED IN PLANNING

LD260909 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Mar 79 Morning Edition p 3 LD

[Article by A. Kostousov, USSR minister of the machine tool and tool building industry: "Machine Tool Building and Technical Progress:]

[Text] In determining the main directions of the 1979 plan and the development of the economy in subsequent periods the CPSU Central Committee November (1978) Plenum paid keen attention to the question of improving economic leadership, enhancing the personal responsibility of leading economic cadres and improving planning.

One of the key problems of developing socialist industry and creating the material and technical base of communism is, as we know, that of insuring the systematic rise of social labor productivity. Our party has always attached paramount significance to this. Machine building machine tool and tool building plants were extensively built back in the First 5-Year Plan period. These include Uralmash, the Gorkiy motor vehicle plant, the first state ballbearing plant; machine tool and tool building plants: the Ordzhonikidze plant, the Gorkiy milling machine plant, Kharkov's Kosior plant and the Frezer and Calibr plants. The Soviet people later did a colossal amount of work to resurrect the war-ravaged economy. This period was characterized by the working people's tremendous creative enthusiasm and the special style of economic leadership given such profound and striking treatment in L. I. Brezhnev's book "Rebirth."

As is known, the development of society and its material production takes place in a dialectical manner: The established forms of industrial production leadership, the relations between its links, the content and character of the distribution of functions relating to control and regulation of their activity are bound to change and improve. Therefore, it is very important to reassess existing provisons and legislative enactments from the viewpoint of whether they accord with the prevailing economic level.

During the first 3 years of the 10th 5-Year Plan the country's economy has made substantial progress in all spheres of economic and social development. Reliable equipment has been developed for the mechanization and automation of series and small-lot multi-schedule production, which has fundamentally changed the workers' labor. Digital program control machine tools graphically exemplify the implementation of a socialist law-governed pattern--the blurring of the distinction between physical and intellectual labor. The efficiency of digital program control machine tools operating as complete sections [uchastki] is 1.5-1.6 times greater than that of machine tools operating individually and at least 3 times greater than that of manually controlled general-purpose machine tools; average output per operator increases 3.5-6 times.

Although quantitative and qualitative advances have been made in machine tool building in recent years, they cannot be regarded as adequate. Machine-tool builders also have shortcomings which were mentioned at the CPSU Central Committee November (1978) Plenum.

The experience accumulated in the machine tool building industry and in the sector's scientific research and technological planning institutes attaches priority importance to the creation of a plant with maximum, as yet unprecedented, automation of machine tool production. The automated plants will not simply be an extension of the present technical level and of the current notion of production complex organization and control. [paragraph continues]

Forecasts of the structure and size of the machine tool pool in machine building for the very near future have been drawn up. Overall production of digital program control machine tools by the Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry in 1976-1990 will total approximately 230,000, of which 45,000 are to be produced in 1990.

It is planned to make major changes in the structure of forging and pressing, casting and timber processing equipment, the production of which it is proposed to develop at increasing preferential rates. Special, specialized and standard-unit machine tools and digital program control machine tools will account for two-thirds of the output in value terms.

The Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry has organized the elaboration of coordinated plans for the creation of a highly developed model machine tool and tool building industry in Moscow and Leningrad. More than 30 institutions, with the collaboration of large industrial associations and enterprises are currently carrying out planning work on the fundamental technical reequipping and modernization of Moscow and Leningrad machine tool and tool building enterprises. Preliminary data give the impression that, following the implementation of the planned measures (they could be completed in the 11th 5-Year Plan), Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry plants located in Moscow and Leningrad will increase output more than threefold compared with 1977, without increasing the number of working people they employ.

Our forecasts are sound. The technical standard of digital program control machine tools is steadily improving, although it is not yet quite up to the demands of the metalworking industry. Their introduction increases the percentage of top-and first-class output. The capital-labor ratio of industrial production personnel in machinebuilding increases. These and other factors have produced a 16-percent increase in labor productivity, and a 78-percent increase in gross output in machine building in the past 2 years of the current 5-year plan.

However, the indicators could have been more substantial were it not for the imbalance between the development of machine building as a whole and the development of the machine tool and tool building industry in the first 3 years of the 5-year plan. We are completely at a loss to understand why the USSR Gosplan is cutting capital investments in the machine tool and tool building industry. In 1979 total capital investments in industrial construction are 25.6 percent lower than those outlined by the 5-year plan and the volume of construction and installation work in 32.7 percent down.

The development of the machine tool and tool building sector has been planned, unfortunately, without regard for the demands of machine building and metalworking and the proportion of fixed capital for which it accounts in these sectors. This has resulted in the delayed renewal of very important types of equipment, especially at enterprises which were constructed during the early 5-year plans and which possess the most highly skilled cadres. Metalworking lathes and automatic lines, forging and pressing machinery, casting and timer processing equipment account for around 25 percent of machine building's fixed capital and approximately 50 percent of the total value of all types of equipment.

At the 25th CPSU Congress, Comrade L.I. Brezhnev noted the special role of machine building, which must provide all sectors of the national economy with equipment. At the same time, emphasis was placed on improving the structure of machine building and paying greater attention to the development of machine tool and tool building and to the electrical engineering and electronics industry.

The planning ofmachine building development has hitherto failed to give adequate consideration to the scale of technical progress in sectors which use machinery. Frequently sectors' orders for equipment of a specific type and productivity are not fully met. This is whymachine building has begun to lag somewhat behind national economic requirements--a lag in a decisive sector with which we associate technical progress in all national economic sectors.

Skilled planning means avoiding imbalances in the development of socialist economic sectors and improving the overall balance in the massive complex of material production. However, the imbalances are there, and as a result we cannot avoid the bottlenecks which prevent even speedier progress.

We must also consider that technical progress predetermines the emergence of qualitatively new materials which then themselves become accelerators of technical progress in production. The saving of material resources in any subdivision of the national economy depends not only on the sectors which consume them. Without belittling the significance of saving metal inmachine building and metalworking and of using it more rationally by reducing waste in the form of turnings and by developing technology bearing in mind the need to increase efficiency, we must not forget that the main reserve for savings is to be found in the sectors producing metal. These questions are still not being resolved satisfactorily. Unfortunately the metallurgical industry still produces few standard sizes of rolled metal sections, and the plan indicators steer them toward producing output in tonnage terms.

If the machine tool and tool building industry were to use calibrated rolled metal for the production of guide screws, the metal savings would be about 30 percent and labor expenditure on working the metal would be reduced by 400,000 hours. This question was raised by the Ministry of Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry with the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy back in 1972. But it is not being resolved. The determining principle of planning in the metallurgical industry should be the possibility of obtaining the greatest amount of finished output (machinery or equipment) per ton of ore on the basis of progressive manufacturing methods.

One more illustration attesting to the imperfection of planning. It is well known that the lack of spare parts for the repair of equipment complicates the work of many sectors of the national economy. Enterprise leaders frequently must choose what to produce: finished machines or spare parts. Since the main indicator in assessing the activity of an enterprise is the number of machines produced, preference is given to machines. We do not think it particularly difficult to eliminate this discrepancy between the production of finished output and that of spare parts.

The established practice of planning without sufficient consideration for improving the qualitative indicators of output helps delay the assimilation and series production of new, more productive machines and machine tools. Over a period of many years (not one 5-year plan), the Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry has been raising before USSR Gosplan the question of the refusal to plan the production of machine tools on a unit basis. The essence of our proposals comes down to insuring that machine tools are allocated to consumers not on a unit basis--so many lathes, so many milling machines, so many drilling machines--but that a limit is set to the actual number of machine tools. The transfer to this planning indicator will not cause complications, since about 80 percent of the output of Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry have approved list prices. The imposition of a limit for consumers on the acquisition of particular groups of machine tools in numerical terms will enable them to order supplementary equipment for machine tools insuring a considerable increase in productivity.

Under the current practice of planning the production of machine tools in units, organization of the production of machine tools with supplementary equipment is objectively impossible. Planning in terms of units and tonnage is used with the same expensive results in other sectors of the national economy.

The USSR Gosplan cannot fail to consider also that while the pool of metal-cutting tools in machinebuilding and metalworking has increased 20.4 percent in 1970-1975, the number of machine-tool operators has increased only 10.2 percent. There are now 1.26 times more lathes than lathe operators and 1.6 times more milling machines than milling machine operators in the national economy.

One more important question. The enhancement of design organizations' responsibility for the technical standard and competitiveness of new machines will be an essential condition of fulfillment of the party and government directives on the acceleration of technical progress in machinebuilding. In this connection it is essential to revise a number of standard documents unnecessarily regulating the process of output development and assimilation.

In particular, the State Committee for Standards' publication giving legal guidelines for the nature and volume of technical documentation for the development of new machine tools and machines is of doubtful expediency. The solution of such questions should be the prerogative of the producer, who is responsible for its quality. The developer has the right to determine the volume of technical documentation depending on the complexity and national economic significance of the planned article. The coordination of technical conditions requires an average of 10-12 signatures from leading workers and about 30 sanctions from standardization services and their technical subdivisions. Every year the Ministry of the Machine-Tool and Tool Building Industry elaborates technical documentation for about 5,000 types of output, and the time spent just on coordinating the technical conditions is approximately 350,000 man-hours; because of this 40 percent of the best-qualified designers do not work at the drawing board.

We cannot ignore the waste caused by the "unified system of design documentation" developed by the State Committee for Standards in 1968 and still in operation to this day. The principles contained in it exclude, for instance, the use in planning of computers which reduce the labor-intensiveness of design work by 20-25 percent for the sole reason that the computers do not have state-standardized type and the space between lines differs by 2-3mm from the standard dimensions.

An analysis of the introduction of unified technical design documentation in the Ministry of the Machine-Tool and Tool Building Industry has shown that simplification in designing one-off or small-series articles will make it possible to reduce the labor-intensiveness of design developments in the sector and the time spent on their coordination by 5 million man-hours, which is equivalent to the annual work of 2,000 designers.

These brief considerations on the question of planning do not claim to be an exhaustive generalization, but there is absolutely no question that the established practice in planning requires major improvement. The planning system which has been adopted contains an unjustifiably large number of indicators, gives rise to bureaucracy, and deprives the enormous army of management workers at various levels of the opportunity to do creative work by taking up a great deal of time, which they spend on paper-shuffling.

We think that Lenin's words have not lost their significance even today: "...Economists, writers, and statisticians should not chatter about the plan in general but should study in detail the fulfillment of our plans, our errors in this practical sphere, and means of correcting these errors."

CPSU APPROVES MOSCOW RAILROAD FOR RUNNING HEAVIER TRAINS

LD271527 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 79 p 1 LD

[Unattributed report: "At the CPSU Central Committee']

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee has examined the question "On the Work Experience of the Collectives of the Moscow Railroad's Enterprises in Accelerating the Transportation of Freight by Increasing the Weight and Length of Trains."

The Moscow railroad workers, implementing the 25th CPSU Congress decisions, have mounted socialist competition on a wide scale to accelerate the transportation of freight and have focused their efforts on increasing the throughput capacity of those sectors with the heaviest traffic loads by increasing the weight and length of trains. To insure the movement of such trains along the railroad, the necessary organizational and technical measures have been adopted to strengthen technical servicing points for rolling stock, and to improve the track and the energy supply facilities. Great attention has been devoted to training cadres involved in driving heavy trains. Amendments have been made to the material incentives system, which will promote better use of rolling stock.

As a result, in a number of sectors of the Moscow railroad with heavy freight traffic the weight of many trains has been almost double. Thus the transportation of freight has been increased without using additional locomotives.

The work experience of collectives of the Moscow railroad's enterprises indicates the existence of great reserves which, when exploited, will make it possible for the railroads to cater more fully for the national economy's transportation requirements.

The CPSU Central Committee approved the work experience of collectives of the Moscow railroad's enterprises in accelerating freight transportation by increasing the weight and length of trains and instructed the Ministry of Railways and railroad chiefs to take the necessary steps to insure wide dissemination of the experience of these collectives. The ministry is also instructed to hold a seminar of railroad transportation workers in April-May 1979 to study the Moscow railroad workers' experience.

Commissions responsible for coordinating the work of various types of transport attached to krayispolkoms and oblispolkoms are instructed to intensify their attention to questions of improving the use of railroad rolling stock and to the introduction, in other types of transport, of the Moscow railroad workers' experience.

The railroad workers' trade union Central Committee is instructed to mount socialist competition widely among the collectives of this sector's enterprises for high quality marshalling, inspecting and driving of heavy trains and for accelerating the delivery of freight to consumers.

The Central Committees of union republic Communist Parties, kraykoms and obkoms, the AUCCTU and the Komsomol Central Committee are advised to direct the efforts of party, trade union and Komsomol organizations at railroad transport enterprises toward seeking further reserves to handle increasing volumes of transportation.

FOREIGN TRADE OFFICIAL HAILS MERCHANT MARINE, TRADE

LD220906 Moscow TASS in English 0657 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 22, TASS--It is said in the decisions of the 25th Congress of the CPSU that one of the primary tasks of the five-year plan is to raise the effectiveness of foreign trade. What is more, the Soviet merchant marine should ensure an economy and a reduction in the spending of foreign exchange by increasing considerably the transportation of export and import cargoes by Soviet ships, Yuriy Brezhnev, first deputy minister of foreign trade of the USSR, writes in PRAVDA today. He says that last year ships flying the flags of other states made 16,327 calls at Soviet ports. This means that over 44 foreign vessels were loaded or unloaded at Soviet ports daily. They accounted for 39 percent of the Soviet Union's sea-borne foreign trade last year.

The fact that the Soviet Union has its own merchant marine is of great importance for the development of foreign trade and for achieving independence from the world freight market, Yuriy Brezhnev writes. This does not mean, however, that all transporation must be done by Soviet ships only. In selling or buying goods, it may be more advantageous to use foreign shipping. Terms of sale and delivery of goods depend on agreement between Soviet and foreign trading organisations when each side takes account of the benefits it may derive from this, the article says.

BRIEFS

KAZAKH CONSUMER GOODS--The Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee Commission for the Manufacture of Consumer Goods at its recent expanded session discussed the results of fulfilling the tasks for 1978 and 1979. Reports were delivered by (Tyumelkhanov), Kazakh Gosplan deputy chairman, and Ivanov, Kazakh minister of trade. It was noted that in recent years the manufacture of consumer goods in Kazakhstan has been increasing. In 1978 their output rose to R375 million and this year is expected to total more than R500 million. The ratio of goods bearing state quality marks has increased. In 1978 alone 25 new items were put into production. Shortcomings were also noted. The need was indicated to specialize and concentrate the manufacture of consumer goods, as well as to improve their quality. The session was addressed by Abdukarimov, Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee Bureau member and Kazakh Supreme Soviet Presidium Chairman, and Dzhiyenbayev, Kazakh Council of Ministers deputy chairman. [Alma-Ata Domestic Service in Russian 1510 GMT 20 Mar 79 AU]

CROSS-COUNTRY VEHICLES--Moscow--The first big batch of Soviet Niva cross-country cars has been built by the Sares firm, which sells Soviet cars on the Swiss market. A TASS correspondent was told at the Avtoeksport external trade association that these vehicles have been highly praised by specialists and car fans at the current international exhibition in Geneva. The Niva is the first Soviet cross-country vehicle which is up to the standards of conventional cars for comfort. It has four-wheel drive. The 85-horsepower engine gives a top speed of 130 kms per hour. A number of these cross-country vehicles were recently bought by France. [Text] [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0735 GMT 15 Mar 79 LD]

FERTILIZER NONDELIVERIES DELAY SPRING FIELDWORK

LD270945 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0905 GMT on 26 March carries a program in which Aleksandr Ivanovich Zholobov, identified as the chief of the Main Administration of Grain Crops and General Problems of Agriculture, discusses how the weather has recently affected crop growth throughout the country.

He says that the cold weather, after the warmth of the first 10 days of February, brought snow cover to a number of places; however, this snow melted in the first part of March in most of the European part of the country when the temperature rose above normal.

In the south, Zholobov says, the weather is close to average and spring fieldwork, like last year, has begun 1-2 weeks earlier than usual. But because the weather is still unsettled, the northward advance of such work is not fast. The gradual increase in temperature, he says, should not harm the harvest. Winter crops are mainly in good condition and have started growing again in Moldavia, the southern and western oblasts of the Ukraine, the Northern Caucasus and the lower Volga. And in Turkmenia, farmers have started watering their winter crops. A total of 15 million hectares has also received top-dressing, while in the Kuban and on the Don in particular root-affecting fertilizers are being applied on a larger scale.

Zholobov notes also that some chemical industry plants are not keeping to their fertilizer supply schedules, and this is holding work up. He hopes that these shortcomings will be eliminated in the near future.

SPRING FLOODS IN BELORUSSIA CAUSE 'DIFFICULT CONDITIONS'

LD272144 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 27 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Heavy spring flooding has begun in southern Belorussia. Our correspondent Aleksey Gurevskiy reports: There are two main regions where the effects of this unprecedented spring flooding are widespread: One is between the western Bug and the Mukhavets, where the rivers, bursting their banks, have even flooded the suburbs of Brest; and the second is at the junction of Brestskaya and Gomelskaya oblasts, where the Groyn and Pripyat rivers have overflowed. Here the scale of the flooding is still greater. Dozens of inhabited settlements are affected by the flooding. Naturally, this has caused many difficultires, which are now being urgently solved by the local party, soviet and economic organs. I have invited (Pavel Antonovich Gorekhovich), deputy chairman of the Brest Obliskolkom and one of the leaders of the oblast flood relief headquarters, to talk about this.

[Gorekhovich] It was known beforehand that an unprecedented spring flood was possible. We were warned of this by the meteorological service. In the oblast and in the rayons, flood relief hardquarters and special detachments were set up in good time. The required equipment was organized, including boats and amphibious vehicles. In difficult conditions, everywhere the situation demanded, the dikes were reinforced and earth banks were raised, protecting bridges, roads and irrigation works. To a considerable extent these measures stood up against the pressure of the elements.

Nevertheless, considerable difficulties arose for the work of certain enterprises, schools, and kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Fields which should be under preparation for spring crops were flooded. In these frankly difficult conditions, people are showing a high degree of organization and discipline.

The population has been evacuated from the danger areas. Domestic cattle have been moved. Fodder has been carried to high ground. Food, industrial goods and mail are being delivered regularly to the inhabited settlements cut off by the flood.

PARTY-STATE RESOLUTION ON AGRICULTURE IN AZERBAIJAN

LD280745 [Editorial Report LD] Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 17 March 1979 front-pages a 5,000-word unattributed report entitled "At the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers" on the 22 February 1979 party and government resolution "On Measures for the Further Specialization of Agricultural Production and the Development of Viticulture and Winemaking in the Azerbaijan SSR." The following day's issue of the newspaper frontpages a 1,300-word unattributed report entitled "At the Azerbaijan CP Central Committee" on the Central Committee's discussion of the abovementioned resolution.

SPECIALISTS WORKING ON NEW UZBEK AGRICULTURAL REGION

LD280410 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 27 Mar 79 LD

[Summary] Specialists have begun setting up a new economic region in Uzbekistan for the production of cotton, rice, vegetables, fruit and other agricultural produce. It is to be based on the Korean oasis and will use water from the Amu-Darya for irrigation. At first, pumping stations on the banks of the river will supply the irrigation system, but since this is an expensive method, it has been decided to dam the river at the Tyuyamuyun narrows where the Karakum and Kyzylkum deserts meet. The height of the dam is presently 17 meters, but in September, when the river is dammed up, it will be increased to 20 meters. The new reservoir formed in the autumn will contain about 8 billion cubic meters of water, which is almost twice the volume of existing reservoirs in the republic. A hydropower station with six power sets will generate up to 1 billion kilowatt hours annually. The water channeled into irrigation will be sufficient to open up 230,000 hectares of new land. This will enable cotton yields to be increased by 4-5 quintals per hectare. The economic region is to have a new town called Druzhba with an initial housing area of 100,000 quare meters.

CONTINUING SPRING CAMPAIGN REPORTED IN UKRAINE'S FIELDS

AU261208 [Editorial Report AU] Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian at 0500 GMT on 24 Mar reports that Krymskaya Oblast machine operators have completed early ear crop sowing and are now engaged in soil tilling for row crops. Sowing has begun in southern rayons of Donetskaya Oblast. Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian at 0500 GMT on 26 Mar adds that more than 180,000 hectares of early grain and bean crops, as well as sunflowers, have been sown in Zaporozhskaya Oblast.

Further Report

AU271018 Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 26 Mar 79 AU

[Summary] The Urkaine's eight oblasts have already joined in the spring sowing campaign. "According to preliminary data, by 26 March early grain crops had already been sown on over 730,000 hectares, or approximately on 10 percent of the land earmarked for these crops. Fertilizers have been applied, both by surface means and from the air, on more than 4.6 million hectares of winter crops, including 4.4 million hectares of winter grain. In Khersonskaya Oblast, southern rayons have already completed the early spring sowing campaign. "Despite the complex weather conditions, Khersonskaya Oblast farmers have already sown early spring crops on more than 250,000 hectares, or half of the target."